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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 14, 2004.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAC THORNBERRY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip limited to 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) for 5 minutes.

REAGAN AND EMBRYO STEM CELL DEBATE

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last week, our Nation mourned the loss of a great leader, Ronald Reagan. He led our Nation through a turbulent period of time. When he came to office, we were struggling with significant problems; with unemployment and inflation, and we were facing a significant threat from our Cold War adversary, the Soviet Union. Ronald Reagan's policies, as we all know, helped lift us out of depression, tamed inflation, and ultimately led to the breakup

of the Soviet Union, the collapse of the Berlin wall, and freedom for millions of Eastern Europeans.

By and large, the celebration of the life of Ronald Reagan, I thought, was outstanding, except for what I would describe as one sour note. Repeatedly, liberals in the press and advocates for embryonic stem cell research were bringing this issue up as it relates to Ronald Reagan's Alzheimer's disease, indeed, holding out the absurd hope that embryonic stem cells could somehow be used one day to treat Alzheimer's disease.

Indeed, many people were implying by their comments and words that the policies pursued by George Bush limited access to embryonic stem cells out of a desire to avoid destroying human embryos. And that is really the essence of the controversial issue here, because to do human embryonic stem cell research you have to destroy a human embryo, a human life, in order to gather the cells. One newspaper, The Washington Post, even editorialized that if George Bush were to allow the destruction of human embryos, this would be a fitting tribute to the life of President Reagan. In that same newspaper, the very next day, was an article reporting how embryonic stem cells are unlikely ever to be useful in the treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

Indeed, one of the lead researchers in the United States, Dr. Ronald McKay, stem cell researcher at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, told Washington Post reporter Rick Weiss, "People need a fairy tale." And he went on to explain how "Alzheimer's disease is a whole-brain disease. It is not a cellular disease, and it is unlikely that embryonic stem cells would ever be useful for treating such a condition."

Now, what are the facts? What is the truth in this whole controversy? Because it is indeed a very confusing subject and it is very easy for poorly-informed reporters to mislead the public.

Well, the truth is embryonic stem cells have never been used to treat any human being for any disease ever. You will hear people repeatedly say that they hold great promise, supposedly. But as a matter of fact, they have never been used to treat anything. Even in animal models, where you use mouse or rat embryonic stem cells, they do not even have a good animal model to treat an animal disease with embryonic stem cells. However, adult stem cells, which are the stem cells that we get from our body, as opposed to destroying a human embryo to get the stem cells, our body is full of stem cells. They are in our bone marrow, in our fat, they are even in our nose.

Adult stem cells have been used in humans to treat Parkinson's Disease, to partially restore vision to someone who is legally blind, relieve systemic lupus, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, cure severe combined immunodeficiency disease, treat several types of cancers, such as leukemias, solid tumors, neuroblastomas, non-Hodgkins lymphoma, and renal cell carcinoma. Adult stem cells have been used to treat multiple sclerosis, treat children with the bubble boy syndrome, and treat heart failure in humans. Indeed, the FDA just recently approved a protocol to use adult stem cells in treating heart failure in humans.

So what is all the hub-bub? Why are all these people running around saying they want the Federal Government to fund all this embryonic stem cell research when it has really never been shown that it will have a clinical application, meanwhile the adult stem cells are showing all this great promise? Why is all this going on?

Well, the truth is that embryonic stem cell research is perfectly legal in the United States. There are no laws preventing it from being done. Every lab in America could do embryonic stem cell research. The issue here is who is going to pay for it, and the facts

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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are that industry does not want to pay for it. They want the Federal Government to pay for it. The Federal government should not. It is unnecessary research and it is unethical.

GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND THE GROWING DEFICIT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 20, 2004, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, for a moment, I want to talk about what our decision should be in this United States Congress as we approach another budget year. One of the big challenges of the Congress of the United States is the overspending of government, because it adds to the debt. Over promising adds to unfunded liabilities, and the question becomes, when is it time for Congress and the White House to start faxing and reducing the growth of the Federal Government?

I would suggest, Mr. Speaker, that the time is now. We should start next year making changes in the programs, such as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, where Congress has overpromised and does not have the revenue coming in to pay for these programs in the long run. That includes Social Security.

The reason I suggest now is a good time is because the economy is growing very rapidly, and I quote from an article in the U.S. News & World Report by Editor-in-Chief, Mort Zuckerman. "New jobs are being generated in large numbers, income is growing at twice the rate of last year, and the acceleration is such that we will probably see a 5 percent growth in the gross domestic product. Sixty-one percent of private industries surveyed have added workers. That is the highest in 4 years. Business confidence has surged to a 20-year high, and business spending is exploding. The productivity boom, meanwhile, has made it possible to keep inflation under 2 percent, saving consumers billions. This has been due not just to technology but to tighter and better management controls. We are on a trajectory toward extraordinary growth in the second half of 2004 that will beget stronger job and income growth."

So the situation that we have been facing is increasing the deficit over \$500 billion a year. A deficit is the overspending in one budget year of the Federal Government; spending that exceeds all revenue coming in. This year, we are looking at \$536 billion. For the next 3 years, at least, it is going to be over \$500 billion at the rate we are going.

And let me put that in a little bit of perspective. We are a country that is about 228 years old. It took the first 200 years of this country to accumulate a debt of \$500 billion. Now we are going deeper into debt, more than \$500 billion

every year. It is time that Congress and the White House did what every family has to do, what every business has to do, and that is tighten our belts and not continue to spend more than the revenue coming in.

Some suggest we should simply increase taxes to accommodate increased spending. I am suggesting that we should prioritize spending, start slowing down the growth in spending, so we are not increasing the size of government by more than three or four times the rate of inflation.

Overspending is one issue that we are laying on future generations; the other is overpromising. Overpromising is what the budget people call unfunded liabilities. Unfunded liabilities are promises that Congress and the White House have made over and above the revenues coming in to pay for those promises. The major categories are Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. The experts predict that unfunded liabilities of this country now amount to over \$73 trillion. The money is not going to be there. And so the only ramification is to load our next generation and our young people with either the responsibility of paying for the interest on that increasing debt or increasing taxes.

It is irresponsible for Congress and the White House not to face up to some of the promises that we have made instead of pretending that the problem somehow is going to be paid for by future generations that are going to have their own problems.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would just simply suggest that every voter in America, when they go to candidate forums, ask that individual running for Congress or for the United States Senate or for President what their plans are to save Social Security and their plans to stop the overspending. The kind of debt that we are passing on to future generations is unacceptable.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 42 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETRI) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Pictures or words are usually one-dimensional. Symbols, however, are beyond language and have meaning all their own. A symbol is more than a substitute or a representation, because

a symbol contains multiple levels of significance for different people all at the same time. A flag is a symbol for a nation, as an escutcheon is a symbol for a family or a logo, a symbol for a company.

Today is Flag Day here in the United States of America. The American flag, its history and its importance is honored this day by Americans everywhere.

Lord God, when we salute the flag or pledge our allegiance facing the flag, we are making a statement of loyalty and patriotism to this country. For us here in the House of Representatives, in our prayer we dedicate ourselves and our work to You. In our pledge to the flag, we commit ourselves to uphold the American Constitution and to work for the citizenry of this great Nation.

Whether we are here as elected Members or as persons who choose to work in this great institution, we ask You to guide and protect this Nation we love and are proud to call our homeland. Be with us and all Americans, especially our military forces who are defending the flying of this flag. Long may our flag wave as a symbol of freedom and equal justice under the law, now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. RENZI led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills and a joint resolution of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested.

S. 2017. An act to designate the United States courthouse and post office building located at 93 Atocha Street in Ponce, Puerto Rico, as the "Luis A. Ferré United States Courthouse and Post Office Building".

S. 2214. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service, located at 3150 Great Northern Avenue in Missoula, Montana, as the "Mike Mansfield Post Office".

S. 2415. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4141 Postmark Drive, Anchorage, Alaska, as the "Robert J. Opinsky Post Office Building".

S.J. Res. 38. Joint resolution providing for the appointment of Eli Broad as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO ATTEND THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE HONORABLE RONALD WILSON REAGAN, FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 663, and the order of the House of December 8, 2003, the Speaker appointed himself and the entire membership of the House to attend the funeral services for former President Ronald Wilson Reagan held Wednesday, June 9, 2004, in the Rotunda of the Capitol and Friday, June 11, 2004, at the Washington National Cathedral.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(c) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLANCE), the whole number of the House is adjusted to 434.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Washington, DC, June 9, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following messages from the Secretary of the Senate on June 9, 2004 at 5:59 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. Res. 373.
That the Senate passed S. Res. 374.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1822.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2130.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2438.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3029.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3059.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3068.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3234.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3300.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3353.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3536.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3537.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3538.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3690.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3733.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3740.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3769.
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3855.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3917.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3939.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3942.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4037.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4176.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4299.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAH,
Clerk of the House.

CONGRESS MUST PERMANENTLY END DEATH TAX

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, thanks to President Bush's historic tax relief, our economy is surging and 1.4 million jobs have been created since August. However, if we do not act, one of the hardest and most unjust penalties on Americans, the death tax, will return in full force in 2011.

The death tax essentially is a double tax that forces families to pay taxes on estates that are passed on from generation to generation. According to Citizens For a Sound Economy, nearly 70 percent of small businesses do not make it past the first generation because of this tax. Additionally, American Farm Bureau President Bob Stallman has pointed out that many of our Nation's farmers must sell parts or all of their land to simply pay taxes. This is also catastrophic for family-owned auto dealerships, funeral homes, and beverage distributors.

The American people know it is fundamentally wrong to be taxed twice and know the importance of passing something of value on to their own children. I urge Congress to act quickly and kill the death tax once and for all.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

ADJUSTMENT IN NUMBER OF FREE ROAMING HORSES PERMITTED IN CAPE LOOKOUT NATIONAL SEASHORE

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 2055) to amend Public Law 89-366 to allow for an adjustment in the number of free roaming horses permitted in Cape Lookout National Seashore.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2055

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ADJUSTMENT IN THE NUMBER OF FREE ROAMING HORSES PERMITTED IN CAPE LOOKOUT NATIONAL SEASHORE, NC.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The first subsection (b) of section 5 of Public Law 89-366 (16 U.S.C. 459g-4) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "100 free roaming horses" and inserting "not less than 110 free roaming horses, with a target population of between 120 and 130 free roaming horses,";

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following new subparagraph:

"(B) unless removal is carried out as part of a plan to maintain the viability of the herd; or"; and

(3) in paragraph (5), by striking "100" and inserting "110".

(b) REPEAL OF DUPLICATE SUBSECTIONS.—Section 5 of Public Law 89-366 is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "(a)" after "(a)"; and

(2) by striking the second subsection (b).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2055, introduced by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) from the Committee on Resources, would allow for the adjustment in the number of free-roaming horses permitted in the Cape Lookout National Seashore. Specifically, H.R. 2055 would permit the number of free-roaming horses to increase to 110 from its current level of 100 with a targeted population of 120 to 130 horses, and would not permit the removal of the horses unless the removal is carried out as part of a plan to maintain the viability of the herd.

H.R. 2055 is supported by the majority and the minority of the Committee on Resources and the administration. I urge adoption of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) and the majority of the committee for the management of this legislation. I also would be remiss if I did not extend my personal commendation to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES), the chief sponsor of this legislation, which has been carried on for the past several Congresses. I congratulate the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for his tenacity and persistence in moving this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, in the course of the last several hundred years, a herd of wild horses has established itself on the Shackleford Banks area of Cape Lookout, North Carolina. The herd developed on the banks because of shipwrecks and abandonment. When the national seashore was established, there were approximately 100 wild horses on the barrier island. Over the years, the National Park Service has taken steps to control the herd size to prevent damage to park resources.

As the majority explained, this bill makes a number of slight adjustments in the management of the herd as a means to ensure their long-term survival.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2055 is a workable solution to the wild horse management needs at Cape Lookout, and we support adoption of the legislation by the House today.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2055.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MARINE TURTLE CONSERVATION ACT OF 2004

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3378) to assist in the conservation of marine turtles and the nesting habitats of marine turtles in foreign countries, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3378

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—
(1) marine turtle populations have declined to the point that the long-term survival of the loggerhead, green, hawksbill, Kemp's rid-

ley, olive ridley, and leatherback turtle in the wild is in serious jeopardy;

(2) 6 of the 7 recognized species of marine turtles are listed as threatened or endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), and all 7 species have been included in Appendix I of CITES;

(3) because marine turtles are long-lived, late-maturing, and highly migratory, marine turtles are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of human exploitation and habitat loss;

(4) illegal international trade seriously threatens wild populations of some marine turtle species, particularly the hawksbill turtle;

(5) the challenges facing marine turtles are immense, and the resources available have not been sufficient to cope with the continued loss of nesting habitats caused by human activities and the consequent diminution of marine turtle populations;

(6) because marine turtles are flagship species for the ecosystems in which marine turtles are found, sustaining healthy populations of marine turtles provides benefits to many other species of wildlife, including many other threatened or endangered species;

(7) marine turtles are important components of the ecosystems that they inhabit, and studies of wild populations of marine turtles have provided important biological insights;

(8) changes in marine turtle populations are most reliably indicated by changes in the numbers of nests and nesting females; and

(9) the reduction, removal, or other effective addressing of the threats to the long-term viability of populations of marine turtles will require the joint commitment and effort of—

(A) countries that have within their boundaries marine turtle nesting habitats; and

(B) persons with expertise in the conservation of marine turtles.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to assist in the conservation of marine turtles and the nesting habitats of marine turtles in foreign countries by supporting and providing financial resources for projects to conserve the nesting habitats, conserve marine turtles in those habitats, and address other threats to the survival of marine turtles.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CITES.—The term "CITES" means the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (27 UST 1087; TIAS 8249).

(2) CONSERVATION.—The term "conservation" means the use of all methods and procedures necessary to protect nesting habitats of marine turtles in foreign countries and of marine turtles in those habitats, including—

(A) protection, restoration, and management of nesting habitats;

(B) onsite research and monitoring of nesting populations, nesting habitats, annual reproduction, and species population trends;

(C) assistance in the development, implementation, and improvement of national and regional management plans for nesting habitat ranges;

(D) enforcement and implementation of CITES and laws of foreign countries to—

(i) protect and manage nesting populations and nesting habitats; and

(ii) prevent illegal trade of marine turtles;

(E) training of local law enforcement officials in the interdiction and prevention of—
(i) the illegal killing of marine turtles on nesting habitat; and

(ii) illegal trade in marine turtles;

(F) initiatives to resolve conflicts between humans and marine turtles over habitat used by marine turtles for nesting;

(G) community outreach and education; and

(H) strengthening of the ability of local communities to implement nesting population and nesting habitat conservation programs.

(3) FUND.—The term "Fund" means the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund established by section 5.

(4) MARINE TURTLE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "marine turtle" means any member of the family Cheloniidae or Dermochelyidae.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term "marine turtle" includes—

(i) any part, product, egg, or offspring of a turtle described in subparagraph (A); and
(ii) a carcass of such a turtle.

(5) MULTINATIONAL SPECIES CONSERVATION FUND.—The term "Multinational Species Conservation Fund" means the fund established under the heading "multinational species conservation fund" in title I of the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999 (16 U.S.C. 4246).

(6) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 4. MARINE TURTLE CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of funds and in consultation with other Federal officials, the Secretary shall use amounts in the Fund to provide financial assistance for projects for the conservation of marine turtles for which project proposals are approved by the Secretary in accordance with this section.

(b) PROJECT PROPOSALS.—

(1) ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS.—A proposal for a project for the conservation of marine turtles may be submitted to the Secretary by—

(A) any wildlife management authority of a foreign country that has within its boundaries marine turtle nesting habitat if the activities of the authority directly or indirectly affect marine turtle conservation; or

(B) any other person or group with the demonstrated expertise required for the conservation of marine turtles.

(2) REQUIRED ELEMENTS.—A project proposal shall include—

(A) a statement of the purposes of the project;

(B) the name of the individual with overall responsibility for the project;

(C) a description of the qualifications of the individuals that will conduct the project;

(D) a description of—

(i) methods for project implementation and outcome assessment;

(ii) staff and community management for the project; and

(iii) the logistics of the project;

(E) an estimate of the funds and time required to complete the project;

(F) evidence of support for the project by appropriate governmental entities of the countries in which the project will be conducted, if the Secretary determines that such support is required for the success of the project;

(G) information regarding the source and amount of matching funding available for the project; and

(H) any other information that the Secretary considers to be necessary for evaluating the eligibility of the project for funding under this Act.

(c) PROJECT REVIEW AND APPROVAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(A) not later than 30 days after receiving a project proposal, provide a copy of the proposal to other Federal officials, as appropriate; and

(B) review each project proposal in a timely manner to determine whether the proposal meets the criteria specified in subsection (d).

(2) CONSULTATION; APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL.—Not later than 180 days after receiving a project proposal, and subject to the availability of funds, the Secretary, after consulting with other Federal officials, as appropriate, shall—

(A) consult on the proposal with the government of each country in which the project is to be conducted;

(B) after taking into consideration any comments resulting from the consultation, approve or disapprove the project proposal; and

(C) provide written notification of the approval or disapproval to the person that submitted the project proposal, other Federal officials, and each country described in subparagraph (A).

(d) CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL.—The Secretary may approve a project proposal under this section if the project will help recover and sustain viable populations of marine turtles in the wild by assisting efforts in foreign countries to implement marine turtle conservation programs.

(e) PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY.—To the maximum extent practicable, in determining whether to approve project proposals under this section, the Secretary shall give preference to conservation projects that are designed to ensure effective, long-term conservation of marine turtles and their nesting habitats.

(f) MATCHING FUNDS.—In determining whether to approve project proposals under this section, the Secretary shall give preference to projects for which matching funds are available.

(g) PROJECT REPORTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each person that receives assistance under this section for a project shall submit to the Secretary periodic reports (at such intervals as the Secretary may require) that include all information that the Secretary, after consultation with other government officials, determines is necessary to evaluate the progress and success of the project for the purposes of ensuring positive results, assessing problems, and fostering improvements.

(2) AVAILABILITY TO THE PUBLIC.—Reports under paragraph (1), and any other documents relating to projects for which financial assistance is provided under this Act, shall be made available to the public.

SEC. 5. MARINE TURTLE CONSERVATION FUND.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Multinational Species Conservation Fund a separate account to be known as the "Marine Turtle Conservation Fund", consisting of—

(1) amounts transferred to the Secretary of the Treasury for deposit into the Fund under subsection (e);

(2) amounts appropriated to the Fund under section 6; and

(3) any interest earned on investment of amounts in the Fund under subsection (c).

(b) EXPENDITURES FROM FUND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), on request by the Secretary, the Secretary of the Treasury shall transfer from the Fund to the Secretary, without further appropriation, such amounts as the Secretary determines are necessary to carry out section 4.

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of the amounts in the account available for each fiscal year, the Secretary may expend not more than 3 percent, or up to \$80,000, whichever is greater, to pay the administrative expenses necessary to carry out this Act.

(c) INVESTMENT OF AMOUNTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall invest such portion of the

Fund as is not, in the judgment of the Secretary of the Treasury, required to meet current withdrawals. Investments may be made only in interest-bearing obligations of the United States.

(2) ACQUISITION OF OBLIGATIONS.—For the purpose of investments under paragraph (1), obligations may be acquired—

(A) on original issue at the issue price; or

(B) by purchase of outstanding obligations at the market price.

(3) SALE OF OBLIGATIONS.—Any obligation acquired by the Fund may be sold by the Secretary of the Treasury at the market price.

(4) CREDITS TO FUND.—The interest on, and the proceeds from the sale or redemption of, any obligations held in the Fund shall be credited to and form a part of the Fund.

(d) TRANSFERS OF AMOUNTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amounts required to be transferred to the Fund under this section shall be transferred at least monthly from the general fund of the Treasury to the Fund on the basis of estimates made by the Secretary of the Treasury.

(2) ADJUSTMENTS.—Proper adjustment shall be made in amounts subsequently transferred to the extent prior estimates were in excess of or less than the amounts required to be transferred.

(e) ACCEPTANCE AND USE OF DONATIONS.—The Secretary may accept and use donations to provide assistance under section 4. Amounts received by the Secretary in the form of donations shall be transferred to the Secretary of the Treasury for deposit in the Fund.

SEC. 6. ADVISORY GROUP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—To assist in carrying out this Act, the Secretary may convene an advisory group consisting of individuals representing public and private organizations actively involved in the conservation of marine turtles.

(b) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.—

(1) MEETINGS.—The Advisory Group shall—

(A) ensure that each meeting of the advisory group is open to the public; and

(B) provide, at each meeting, an opportunity for interested persons to present oral or written statements concerning items on the agenda.

(2) NOTICE.—The Secretary shall provide to the public timely notice of each meeting of the advisory group.

(3) MINUTES.—Minutes of each meeting of the advisory group shall be kept by the Secretary and shall be made available to the public.

(c) EXEMPTION FROM FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the advisory group.

SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There is authorized to be appropriated to the Fund \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2009.

SEC. 8. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

Not later than October 1, 2005, the Secretary shall submit to the Congress a report on the results and effectiveness of the program carried out under this Act, including recommendations concerning how this Act might be improved and whether the Fund should be continued in the future.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may

have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, marine sea turtles have been a vital component of our ocean ecosystems for more than 100 million years. As recently as the 19th century, marine turtles were abundant.

Sea turtles live long lives, mature relatively late, and migrate thousands of miles. They are also particularly vulnerable to exploitation and habitat loss.

Sadly, populations of marine turtles have been devastated by foreign fishing practices, the destruction of essential nesting habitat, massive poaching of turtle eggs, meat and shells, and ocean pollution. As a result, all seven remaining species of sea turtles are listed on Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna. Six of the species that spend at least part of their lives in U.S. waters are protected under the Endangered Species Act.

In an effort to prevent these species from becoming extinct, I am urging the adoption of the Marine Turtle Conservation Act. This legislation is modeled after highly successful laws to conserve African elephants and highly endangered populations of Asian elephants, rhinoceros, tigers, great apes, and neotropical migratory birds. It is a proven formula, and small investment of U.S. dollars will make a difference in the conservation and recovery of marine turtles throughout our oceans.

With this money, the Secretary of the Interior can approve conservation grants for a variety of projects. These projects include the monitoring of trade in turtle products, satellite telemetry to track the movement of sea turtles, the protection of nesting beaches, and efforts to stop poaching by assisting law enforcement officials and educational outreach to communities that have turtle habitat.

There is broad support for this legislation. Such diverse organizations as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the National Fisheries Institute, the Shrimp Council, the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, the Wildlife Conservation Society, and the Ocean Conservancy all testified in support of the legislation.

I ask my colleagues to support and urge passage of H.R. 3378.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona

(Mr. RENZI) for management of this proposed legislation. I commend the gentleman for his tremendous knowledge of sea turtles. I know there are a lot of turtles in Arizona, and I commend him for his assistance in passage of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this bill has the bipartisan support not only of the chairman of our Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST), but also the ranking member, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO), and others who are cosponsors of this legislation.

Marine turtles have been swimming in the world's oceans for an estimated 100 million years. Unfortunately, marine scientists speculate that certain species, such as the Pacific leatherback, may become extinct in the next 5 to 30 years unless the world takes notice of many threats confronting sea turtles.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of H.R. 3378, which would establish a new international conservation matching grant program to protect marine turtles, especially their nesting habitats, around the globe.

I applaud, again, the chairman of our fisheries subcommittee for his leadership, and also the Committee on Resources chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), and the ranking member, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), for their leadership and support of this legislation.

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Again I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in full support of my friend and colleague, Mr. GILCHREST, in his efforts to protect sea turtles. Mr. GILCHREST has a long history of working diligently to protect marine wildlife and this bill, H.R. 3378, the Marine Turtle Conservation Act, demonstrates his ongoing interest in this area.

Mr. Speaker, both the Pew and U.S. Ocean Commission Reports have documented the many crises facing our oceans. These are crises that require real leadership by this body. Today, we have the opportunity to demonstrate our leadership by passing Mr. GILCHREST's bill.

With 6 of 7 marine turtles listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act, H.R. 3378 is a wake-up call. Like the sea otter—an animal especially important to my district—sea turtles play vital roles in the ecosystems in which they occur. This means that our efforts to restore sea turtle populations will likely have the indirect effect of benefiting many other marine species. More bang for the buck. I think we all like it when that happens.

Sea turtles straddle numerous political borders—they are highly migratory species whose conservation depends on cooperative efforts by humans across the globe. These cooperative efforts require political and financial commitments by many groups, from individual countries to non-governmental organizations to local communities. When all of these levels

of leadership come together in a cohesive manner, our protection of sea turtles is dramatically increased. H.R. 3378 coordinates all of these levels by authorizing funds for on-the-ground efforts to protect sea turtles in countries where a lack of funds, not a lack of will, is the problem.

Mr. Speaker, it is only through international efforts that sea turtle populations will begin to rebound. I know that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Fish and Wildlife Service work hard to oversee our country's efforts to protect sea turtles and to collaborate with other countries at every opportunity. With passage of H.R. 3378, we can take our leadership to the next level by providing grants to international groups with demonstrated experience in conserving sea turtles. By doing this, the United States can demonstrate its leadership in coastal and ocean conservation—something near and dear to my heart.

Mr. GILCHREST has addressed one piece of the puzzle and I commend him for his efforts. The next step—and I think that Mr. GILCHREST would agree—is to provide a long-term vision about our relationship with the sea by passing a national ocean policy act. I am working on BOB, the Big Ocean Bill, with the coauthors of the bipartisan House Oceans Caucus. I know we would all welcome Mr. GILCHREST's leadership and expertise on marine wildlife and fisheries conservation as we move forward with BOB.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 3378 and hope that it represents the beginning of a new era in U.S. ocean policy.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3378, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPLACING CERTAIN COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM MAPS

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1663) to replace certain Coastal Barrier Resources System maps, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REPLACEMENT OF CERTAIN COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM MAPS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The 2 maps subtitled “NC-07P”, relating to the Coastal Barrier Resources System unit designated as Coastal Barrier Resources System Cape Fear Unit NC-07P, that are included in the set of maps entitled “Coastal Barrier Resources System” and referred to in section 4(a) of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3503(a)), are hereby replaced by 2 other maps relating to

those units entitled “Coastal Barrier Resources System Cape Fear Unit, NC-07P” and dated May 5, 2004.

(b) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall keep the maps referred to in subsection (a) on file and available for inspection in accordance with the provisions of section 4(b) of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3503(b)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the Senate bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1663, introduced by Senator ELIZABETH DOLE, will remove 284 acres of private fastland, wetlands and open water property that has been mistakenly included within the Coastal Barrier Resources System. A similar bill, H.R. 2501, has been proposed by our colleague the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCINTYRE). Specifically this legislation would replace two incorrectly drawn maps with updated digitized maps that accurately reflect the boundaries of the Cape Fear unit in North Carolina. This unit, which is referred to as an otherwise protected area, was established to protect certain public lands already held for conservation purposes. Regrettably, because of honest mistakes, the boundaries delineated on the maps erroneously include private property that is not an inholding. Under the terms of this measure, 26 homes and a number of undeveloped lots on Bald Head Island, North Carolina will be removed from the system. At the same time, however, 6,760 acres of additional military and State park lands will be added to the coastal barrier system for a net gain of 6,476 acres.

During the hearing on this legislation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service testified in support of this needed correction and stated that the private properties in question are outside the boundaries of the conservation area and are not held for conservation purposes.

I urge support of this bill so that these homeowners can obtain the Federal flood insurance they need to protect their property and so that the boundaries of this coastal barrier unit can accurately reflect those lands that should be held for conservation purposes.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. I thank the gentleman from Arizona for again his management of this proposed legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this bill was introduced by the gentlewoman from North Carolina, Mrs. DOLE, and in compliance also a companion bill was introduced in the House by my good friend the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCINTYRE).

As stated by the previous speaker, Mr. Speaker, S. 1663 is noncontroversial legislation that would correct the boundaries of an otherwise protected area located near the mouth of the Cape Fear River in North Carolina. I want to thank again Chairman GILCHREST and Ranking Member PALLONE of the Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans for their contributions in making an improvement to this proposed legislation.

The technical corrections contained in the new maps that would be adopted through passage of this bill have been painstakingly reviewed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and all local property owners to ensure their accuracy. In fact, I cannot recall another comparable bill that has undergone such a thorough review. In this regard again I want to congratulate and praise the House sponsor of companion legislation, H.R. 2501, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCINTYRE), for his perseverance in seeing this process through. The gentleman from North Carolina's diligence and persistence have resulted in a final product that addresses the legitimate needs of his constituents. Most important, Mr. Speaker, this legislation respects and upholds the integrity of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System. For that reason, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 1663, a bill to replace certain Coastal Barrier Resources System maps relevant to Bald Head Island, North Carolina. Having worked with the U.S. House Committee on Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on making these necessary corrections to the maps pertaining to Bald Head Island, I am pleased that the U.S. House of Representatives will be moving forward and passing this legislation today.

Congress enacted the Coastal Barrier Resources Act in 1982 in order to address problems caused by coastal barrier development. The Coastal Barrier Resources Act restricts Federal expenditures and financial assistance, including Federal flood insurance, for development on coastal barriers.

Later, the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 added "otherwise protected areas" to the System. Otherwise protected areas are undeveloped coastal barriers within the boundaries of lands reserved for conservation purposes such as wildlife refuges and parks.

While they were not made part of the Coastal Barrier Resources System, Congress forbade the issuance of new flood insurance or any Federal development-related assistance in otherwise protected areas.

Three years ago, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the citizens of Bald Head Island informed me that the maps of the area on the island, known as NC07P, were inaccurate. The errors in the maps deny flood insurance to certain property owners on Bald Head Island, North Carolina. These errors resulted from the problems inherent in translating lines drawn on the large-scale maps used for designations into precise, on-the-ground property lines.

However, this problem is now fixable due to improved technology available to the Fish and Wildlife Service. The mistakes that led to the Bald Head Island properties being placed within the outer boundary of NC07P were clearly not intended by Congress when maps were created.

While correcting the lines around Bald Head Island, the Fish and Wildlife Service—working with the State of North Carolina and the local communities contained within NC07P—identified additional acres that are eligible for addition to NC07P. As such, the technical changes called for in this legislation, which I was pleased to work so closely on with Senator ELIZABETH DOLE, have the added benefit of vastly increasing the overall acreage in the map.

Many people were involved in this process. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the work of the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Resources, U.S. Representatives RICHARD POMBO and NICK RAHALL, as well as the Chairman and Ranking Members of the Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans, U.S. Representatives WAYNE GILCHREST and FRANK PALLONE. I would also like to thank Senator DOLE for her hard work on this; Dave Jansen of the Resources Committee; Katie Nemi, Paul Suza, and all of the staff over at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Becky King, former Village Manager of Bald Head Island; and Mary Ellen Simmons of my staff for all of her hard work in coordinating this incredible effort.

As hurricane season approaches, there are landowners on Bald Head Island who, by no fault of their own, would be left unprotected if a storm were to hit the lower Cape Fear region. That is why this matter requires immediate attention, and why I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this important piece of legislation.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1663, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROTECTING VOTING RIGHTS OF MEMBERS OF ARMED SERVICES IN ELECTIONS FOR DELEGATE REPRESENTING AMERICAN SAMOA

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2010) to protect the voting rights of members of the Armed Services in elections for the Delegate representing American Samoa in the United States House of Representatives, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2010

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) It is in the national interest that qualifying members of the Armed Forces on active duty and other overseas voters be allowed to vote in Federal elections.

(2) Since 1980, when the first election for the Congressional Delegate from American Samoa was held, general elections have been held in the first week of November in even-numbered years and runoff elections have been held 2 weeks later.

(3) This practice of holding a run-off election 2 weeks after a general election deprives members of the Armed Forces on active duty and other overseas voters of the opportunity to participate in the Federal election process in American Samoa.

(4) Prior to and since September 11, 2001, and due to limited air service, mail delays, and other considerations, it has been and remains impossible for absentee ballots to be prepared and returned within a 2-week period.

(5) American Samoa law requiring members of the Armed Forces on active duty and other overseas voters to register in person also prevents participation in the Federal election process and is contrary to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

(6) Given that 49 states elect their Representatives to the United States House of Representatives by plurality, it is in the national interest for American Samoa to do the same until such time as the American Samoa Legislature establishes primary elections and declares null and void the local practice of requiring members of the Armed Forces on active duty and other overseas voters to register in person which is contrary to the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

SEC. 2. PLURALITY OF VOTES REQUIRED FOR ELECTION OF DELEGATE.

Section 2 of the Act entitled "An Act to provide that the Territory of American Samoa be represented by a nonvoting Delegate to the United States House of Representatives, and for other purposes", approved October 31, 1978 (48 U.S.C. 1732; Public Law 95-556) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking "majority" and inserting "plurality" the first place it appears; and

(B) by striking "If no candidate" and all that follows through "office of Delegate."; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

"(c) ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIMARY ELECTIONS.—The legislature of American Samoa may, but is not required to, provide for primary elections for the election of Delegate.

"(d) EFFECT OF ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIMARY ELECTIONS.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), if the legislature of American Samoa provides for primary elections for the election of Delegate, the Delegate shall be elected by a majority of votes cast in any subsequent general election for the office of Delegate for which such primary elections were held."

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATES.

The amendments made by paragraph (1) of section 2 shall take effect on January 1, 2006. The amendment made by paragraph (2) of section 2 shall take effect on January 1, 2005.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from American Samoa has introduced legislation to assist those voters in his district who live overseas. His legislation, H.R. 2010, will provide for the election of the Delegate from American Samoa by a plurality vote. Currently the Delegate is elected by a majority vote, though the number of candidates seeking American Samoa's seat in Congress often prevents a clear majority in the general election. For this reason, a runoff election is the result, and it is held on the 14th day after the general election.

The gentleman from American Samoa and local government officials have explained well the unintended consequences of this format. Given the lack of flights to and from the territory, the ability to gather votes from the runoff election has proven extremely difficult, with many ballots arriving after the runoff election date. In short, this prevents the voices of individuals such as members of our armed services as well as students studying abroad to be heard.

Though Congress enacted the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act in 1986, it has not done enough to fulfill its purpose of ensuring the right to vote for all U.S. citizens given the unique logistical hurdles that American Samoa faces. We all should understand the need to help all of our fellow voters, especially during times of war when many Samoans are serving in Iraq. The House can now move this legislation forward and help to prevent the current Federal law from disenfranchising voters. Instead, with H.R. 2010, no legal voters will be deterred from fully participating in our democratic process when they vote to elect American Samoa's Delegate.

Finally, I would also point out that H.R. 2010, as amended, was passed by the Committee on Resources by voice vote on May 5 and I appreciate the bipartisan work of the committee in acting quickly on this legislation. I hope

we can now act in the same bipartisan fashion. I urge the adoption of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I again thank my good friend the gentleman from Arizona for his management and his eloquent remarks concerning his support of this legislation.

I rise today in support of this bill I introduced to protect the voting rights of active duty service members and overseas voters whose home of residence is American Samoa. This issue is not new to the people or the American Samoa legislature. The truth is this matter has been before the people and our local leaders for the past 6 years. Since 1998 I have written to our Governors, past and present. I have written and testified before our local legislature, and copies of my testimony and letters and local responses have been made part of the committee record.

Mr. Speaker, during the 107th Congress, I introduced H.R. 3576, a bill to establish primary elections which would have made sure that the American Samoa Delegate was elected by a majority of the votes cast. When introducing this bill, I pointed out that both Guam and the Virgin Islands were once bound by the 2-week Federal runoff requirement but established primary elections to resolve similar problems of sending out and receiving back absentee ballots in time for those votes to be counted. Although I suggested that American Samoa could benefit from modeling its Federal election procedures after Guam and the Virgin Islands, American Samoa chose not to support this bill and cited as its reason that primary elections were too costly.

Mr. Speaker, given the importance and urgency of this bill, I want to thank members of the House Committee on Resources, both Democrats and Republicans, who have unanimously voted in favor of this legislation. H.R. 2010 is the right thing to do. As a Vietnam veteran, I will not rest until we fully guarantee that our active duty service members have the right to vote in Federal elections in the territory. To alleviate any concerns that I will personally benefit from this legislation, I offered an amendment in the nature of a substitute for purposes of changing the effective date of this bill from January 2004 to January 2006. This amendment was unanimously supported in markup by the House Committee on Resources and, as such, any change in law will not go into effect until the 2006 election cycle.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I thank the men and women from American Samoa who are serving on active duty at a time when our Nation is at war. I wish our active duty service members the

very best and I pray for their safe return as it would be true for all members of our armed services currently serving all over the world.

I also want to thank Chairman POMBO of the Committee on Resources and Ranking Member RAHALL for their unwavering support of H.R. 2010 and for bringing this historic bill to the House floor for consideration and for a vote. Again, this is a bipartisan bill. I urge the Members of this body to join us in protecting the voting rights of our active duty military men and women who currently serve all over the world representing our great Nation. Again, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2010, a bill I introduced to protect the voting rights of active duty service members and overseas voters whose home of residence is American Samoa.

This issue is not new to the people or the American Samoa Legislature. The truth is this matter has been before the people and our local leaders for the past 6 years. Since 1998, I have written to our Governors, past and present. I have written and testified before our local Legislature, or FONO, and copies of my testimony, my letters, and local responses have been made part of the Committee record.

I have also brought this matter to the attention of my constituents through press releases, newsletters, radio and TV programs. In 2001, I conducted a Congressional survey and 85 percent of those surveyed agreed that American Samoa's overseas voters and active duty service members should be afforded the same rights and privileges as every other American serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Unfortunately, American Samoa's overseas voters and military men and women have been disenfranchised from the political process and have been denied the right to vote in the federal elections held in the Territory. In part, this has been due to two complications. One, American Samoa law has required uniformed and overseas voters to register to vote in person and this has been contrary to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Voting Act of 1975.

While I am pleased that our Legislature is working to address the local registration process, our uniformed and overseas voters have also been denied the right to vote as a result of Public Law 95-556 passed on October 31, 1978. Federal, or PL 95-556, provides for the Territory of American Samoa to be represented by a nonvoting Delegate to the United States House of Representatives and mandates that if no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, on the fourteenth day following such election, a runoff election shall be held between the candidates receiving the highest and second highest number of votes cast.

Like the Governor of American Samoa, the Honorable Togiola T.A. Tulafono, I believe this 1978 federal law requiring a runoff election to be held only 14 days after the general election creates, as Governor Togiola says, "a situation where it is virtually impossible for American Samoa's Election Office to send out absentee ballots to the men and women in the military and expect to receive them back in time for those votes to be counted in a runoff election." Given that our mail is delayed and

our air service is limited to two flights a week, Governor Togiola and I agree that some measure should be put in place to assure that the votes of our military men and women are counted and that this injustice is corrected.

During the 107th Congress, I introduced H.R. 3576, a bill to establish primary elections and which made sure that American Samoa's Delegate was elected by a majority of the votes cast. When introducing this bill, I pointed out that both Guam and the Virgin Islands were once bound by the two week federal run-off requirement but established primary elections to resolve similar problems of sending out and receiving back absentee ballots in time for those votes to be counted. Although I suggested that American Samoa could benefit from modeling its federal election procedures after Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands, the American Samoa Government (ASG) chose not to support this bill and cited as its reason that primary elections were too costly.

Given ASG's financial difficulties and out of respect for its concerns, I introduced H.R. 4838 which called for voting by plurality in lieu of primary elections. As I explained when introducing H.R. 4838, 49 of the 50 states use plurality voting to elect their Representatives to Congress. The countries of Tualata and Itu'au in American Samoa also elect their representatives by plurality vote. Plurality voting minimizes costs to the local government and also provides active duty service members and other overseas voters an opportunity to participate fully in the federal election process. Despite these benefits, ASG also chose not to support this bill. This time, the former and late Governor Tauese P.F. Sunia stated that he believed "the intent of Congress when they established majority vote was to ensure a strong mandate for American Samoa's Delegate."

To be clear about this, I would like to provide this body with a legal history of how election law was determined for American Samoa. In 1951, President Harry S. Truman issued Executive Order 10264 which transferred administrative responsibility for the islands of American Samoa from the Secretary of the Navy to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. The Secretary of the Interior, in turn, appointed our Governors.

In 1960, the people of American Samoa adopted a Constitution. The Constitution was revised in 1966 and was approved by the Secretary of the Interior on June 2, 1967. In 1967, the Revised Constitution of American Samoa provided for an elected Legislature, or Fono, consisting of a Senate and a House of Representatives. However, it did not provide our people with the right to elect our own Governor and Lieutenant Governor and, at the time, American Samoa was the only remaining off-shore area of the United States which did not have a popularly elected Governor and Lieutenant Governor.

On June 10, 1976, Congressman Phil Burton, Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Interior and Insular Affairs, took notice of American Samoa's situation and introduced a bill to make it possible for our Governor and Lieutenant Governor to be popularly elected rather than appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. As staff counsel to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, Congressman Burton instructed me to draft this legislation which the U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed by a landslide vote of 377 to 1.

Instead of sending his bill to the Senate, Congressman Burton decided to consult further with the Secretary of the Interior, Rogers C.B. Morton, about American Samoa's unique political status as an unincorporated and unorganized territory which was and is unlike the organized territories of Guam and the Virgin Islands. As a result of their consultations, the two agreed that Secretary Morton would issue a Secretarial Order (No. 3009) authorizing the American Samoa Government to pass enabling legislation to provide for an elected Governor and the Lieutenant Governor.

Secretary's Order No. 3009 amended American Samoa's Constitution to specifically provide for an elected rather than an appointed Governor and Lieutenant Governor. Secretary's Order 3009 was also in keeping with the will of the majority of voters of American Samoa who voted in favor of electing their own Governor and Lieutenant Governor in a plebiscite that was held on August 31, 1976.

Furthermore, Chairman Phil Burton introduced legislation on August 2, 1978 to provide that the Territory of American Samoa be represented by a nonvoting Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives. I was also tasked with drafting this legislation which became Public Law 95-556 and was made effective October 31, 1978.

I can assure you that in the case of the Delegate, American Samoa's federal election laws were patterned after those of the Virgin Islands and Guam. At the time, consideration was not given to whether or not majority or plurality voting should be established for American Samoa. Congress simply enacted legislation to provide American Samoa with representation in the U.S. Congress. We could not foresee some 25 years ago that American Samoa's men and women would serve in record numbers in the U.S. Armed Forces making it nearly impossible (given American Samoa's limited air and mail service) for active duty service members to participate in runoff elections held two weeks after general elections.

Today, we are keenly aware that this requirement to hold a runoff election 14 days after the general election is wrong. To right this wrong and after further consultations with our local leaders, I introduced H.R. 2010 which includes the suggestions of Governor Togiola. In a letter dated September 11, 2003, Governor Togiola informed me that he had reviewed the copy of H.R. 2010 that I sent to him and that he was satisfied that this bill will provide an immediate solution to address the concerns we have regarding the voting rights of our men and women in the military services. In a letter dated September 15, 2003, I thanked Governor Togiola for his support.

Although we have had some differences regarding this issue, Governor Togiola and I have always agreed that our military men and women should have the right to vote especially when they contribute almost a million dollars per year in taxes to our local government. I am pleased that Governor Togiola is now happy with this bill and I again commend him for supporting its passage.

I also want to thank the President of the American Samoa Senate, the Honorable Lutu Tenari S. Fuimaono, for his support. In a letter dated October 28, 2003, President Fuimaono stated that he fully supports H.R. 2010 and that he wishes Chairman POMBO the best of luck in moving forward on the bill.

Finally, I would like to say that H.R. 2010 is an historic bill. It is a bill that immediately restores the voting rights of our overseas voters and active duty military members. It is also a bill that makes clear in no uncertain terms that the American Samoa Legislature is vested with the authority it needs to establish primary elections for the office of the Delegate, if it so chooses.

H.R. 2010 also protects American Samoa's future in the U.S. Congress. Without H.R. 2010, future Delegates could miss out on key committee assignments as a result of delayed outcomes and run-off elections. Like Governor Togiola, I do not believe American Samoa's future should be weakened or disadvantaged and this is one more reason I appreciate his support of H.R. 2010.

Given the importance and urgency of this bill, I thank the members of the House Resources Committee, both Democrats and Republicans, who have unanimously voted in favor of this bill. H.R. 2010 is the right thing to do and, as a Vietnam veteran, I will not rest until we fully guarantee that our active duty service members have the right to vote in federal elections held in American Samoa.

To alleviate any concerns that I will personally benefit from this legislation, I offered an amendment in the nature of a substitute for purposes of changing the effective date of this bill from January 2004 to January 2006. This amendment was unanimously supported at mark-up by the House Resources Committee and, as such, any change in law will not go into effect until the 2006 election cycle.

As I have repeatedly stated, H.R. 2010 in no way, affects how the American Samoa Government chooses to elect its local leaders and, having made every change requested of me by our local leaders and after years of good-faith efforts on my part, I believe the time has come to do right by our overseas voters and men and women in the military. Our sons and daughters have fought and died to preserve our freedoms and I will do everything I can to protect their right to vote.

At this time, I thank the men and women from American Samoa who are serving on active duty at a time when our Nation is at war. I wish our active duty service members the very best and I pray for their safe return.

I also thank the Honorable RICHARD POMBO, Chairman of the House Committee on Resources, and Ranking Member NICK RAHALL, for their unwavering support of H.R. 2010 and for bringing this historic bill to the House Floor for consideration and vote. Again, Democrats and Republicans of the House Resources Committee joined together to unanimously pass H.R. 2010 and I now urge members of this body to join with us in protecting the voting rights of active duty military members and overseas voters whose home of residence is American Samoa.

ATTACHMENTS

04/05/00—Faleomavaega to ASG Governor Sunia, Lieutenant Governor, President of the Senate and Senators, Speaker of the House and Representatives, Attorney General.

11/20/01—Faleomavaega to ASG Governor Sunia, Lieutenant Governor, President of the Senate and Senators, Speaker of the House and Representatives.

12/20/01—Faleomavaega to ASG Governor Sunia, Lieutenant Governor, President of the Senate and Senators, Speaker of the House and Representatives.

01/02/02—Governor Tauese Sunia to Faleomavaega, ASG Lieutenant Governor, President of the Senate and Senators, Speaker of the House and Representatives, Chief Election Officer.

01/28/02—ASG Speaker of the House to Faleomavaega, ASG Governor, Election Office, President of the Senate.

02/27/02—Faleomavaega to ASG Speaker of the House.

03/05/02—Faleomavaega to ASG Senate President and Senators.

05/23/02—Faleomavaega to ASG Governor Sunia, Lieutenant Governor, President of the Senate and Senators, Speaker of the House and Representatives.

07/10/02—ASG President Pro Tem and Speaker of the House to the Honorable James Hansen, Chairman of U.S. House Committee on Resources, ASG Governor Tauese Sunia, Senators, Representatives, Chief Election Officer, the Honorable Nick Rahall (Ranking Member of the U.S. House Committee on Resources), Congressman Eni Faleomavaega, Members of the U.S. House Committee on Resources.

07/11/03—Governor Tauese Sunia to Faleomavaega, Chairman of the U.S. House Committee on Resources, ASG President of the Senate and Senators, Speaker of the House and Representatives, Chief Election Officer.

07/15/02—Faleomavaega to the Honorable Nick Rahall, Ranking Member, U.S. House Committee on Resources.

07/15/02—Faleomavaega to the Honorable James Hansen, Chairman, U.S. House Committee on Resources.

07/23/02—Faleomavaega to ASG Governor Sunia, Chairman and Ranking Member of the U.S. House Committee on Resources, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior, ASG Lieutenant Governor, President of the Senate and Senators, Speaker of the House and Representatives, Chief Election Officer.

07/23/02—Faleomavaega to the Honorable James Hansen, Chairman, U.S. House Committee on Resources.

07/23/02—Faleomavaega to the Honorable Nick Rahall, Ranking Member of the U.S. House Committee on Resources.

09/05/02—Faleomavaega to ASG Governor Tauese Sunia.

09/05/02—Faleomavaega to ASG President of the Senate and Senators.

09/05/02—Faleomavaega to ASG Speaker of the House and Representatives.

09/12/02—Faleomavaega Statement before the American Samoa Legislature.

05/07/03—Faleomavaega to ASG Governor Togiola Tulafono, Lieutenant Governor, President of the Senate and Senators, Speaker of the House and Representatives.

09/05/03—Senator Te'o J. Fuavai to Faleomavaega.

09/11/03—ASG Governor Togiola Tulafono to Faleomavaega, ASG Lieutenant Governor, President of the Senate and Senators, Speaker of the House and Representatives.

09/15/03—Faleomavaega to ASG Governor Togiola Tulafono, Lieutenant Governor, President of the Senate and Senators, Speaker of the House and Representatives.

09/19/03—Senate Resolution.

10/16/03—Faleomavaega to Senator Te'o J. Fuavai.

10/27/03—President of ASG Senate, Lutu Fuiafano, to Faleomavaega.

10/28/03—Office of the Governor to Lieutenant Governor, Aitofele T.F. Sunia.

07/21/76—Congressional Record, Providing for an Elective Governor and Lieutenant Governor of American Samoa.

10/03/78—Congressional Record, Providing the Territory of American Samoa with a Nonvoting Delegate.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to commend my colleague from American Samoa for his leadership and his advocacy, particularly for those citizens there within his territory and within his district who now will be able to reach out and be part of the election process.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2010, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AGOA ACCELERATION ACT OF 2004

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4103) to extend and modify the trade benefits under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4103

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "AGOA Acceleration Act of 2004".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) *The African Growth and Opportunity Act (in this section and section 3 referred to as "the Act") has helped to spur economic growth and bolster economic reforms in the countries of sub-Saharan Africa and has fostered stronger economic ties between the countries of sub-Saharan Africa and the United States; as a result, exports from the United States to sub-Saharan Africa reached record levels after the enactment of the Act, while exports from sub-Saharan Africa to the United States have increased considerably.*

(2) *The Act's eligibility requirements have reinforced democratic values and the rule of law, and have strengthened adherence to internationally recognized worker rights in eligible sub-Saharan African countries.*

(3) *The Act has helped to bring about substantial increases in foreign investment in sub-Saharan Africa, especially in the textile and apparel sectors, where tens of thousands of new jobs have been created.*

(4) *As a result of the Agreement on Textiles and Apparel of the World Trade Organization, under which quotas maintained by WTO member countries on textile and apparel products end on January 1, 2005, sub-Saharan Africa's textile and apparel industry will be severely challenged by countries whose industries are more developed and have greater capacity, economies of scale, and better infrastructure.*

(5) *The underdeveloped physical and financial infrastructure in sub-Saharan Africa continues to discourage investment in the region.*

(6) *Regional integration establishes a foundation on which sub-Saharan African countries can coordinate and pursue policies grounded in African interests and history to achieve sustainable development.*

(7) *Expanded trade because of the Act has improved fundamental economic conditions within*

sub-Saharan Africa. The Act has helped to create jobs in the poorest region of the world, and most sub-Saharan African countries have sought to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the Act.

(8) *Agricultural biotechnology holds promise for helping solve global food security and human health crises in Africa and, according to recent studies, has made contributions to the protection of the environment by reducing the application of pesticides, reducing soil erosion, and creating an environment more hospitable to wildlife.*

(9)(A) *One of the greatest challenges facing African countries continues to be the HIV/AIDS epidemic, which has infected as many as one out of every four people in some countries, creating tremendous social, political, and economic costs. African countries need continued United States financial and technical assistance to combat this epidemic.*

(B) *More awareness and involvement by governments are necessary. Countries like Uganda, recognizing the threat of HIV/AIDS, have boldly attacked it through a combination of education, public awareness, enhanced medical infrastructure and resources, and greater access to medical treatment. An effective HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment strategy involves all of these steps.*

(10) *African countries continue to need trade capacity assistance to establish viable economic capacity, a well-grounded rule of law, and efficient government practices.*

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

The Congress supports—

(1) *a continued commitment to increase trade between the United States and sub-Saharan Africa and increase investment in sub-Saharan Africa to the benefit of workers, businesses, and farmers in the United States and in sub-Saharan Africa, including by developing innovative approaches to encourage development and investment in sub-Saharan Africa;*

(2) *a reduction of tariff and nontariff barriers and other obstacles to trade between the countries of sub-Saharan Africa and the United States, with particular emphasis on reducing barriers to trade in emerging sectors of the economy that have the greatest potential for development;*

(3) *development of sub-Saharan Africa's physical and financial infrastructure;*

(4) *international efforts to fight HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, other infectious diseases, and serious public health problems;*

(5) *many of the aims of the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD), which include—*

(A) *reducing poverty and increasing economic growth;*

(B) *promoting peace, democracy, security, and human rights;*

(C) *promoting African integration by deepening linkages between African countries and by accelerating Africa's economic and political integration into the rest of the world;*

(D) *attracting investment, debt relief, and development assistance;*

(E) *promoting trade and economic diversification;*

(F) *broadening global market access for United States and African exports;*

(G) *improving transparency, good governance, and political accountability;*

(H) *expanding access to social services, education, and health services with a high priority given to addressing HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, other infectious diseases, and other public health problems;*

(I) *promoting the role of women in social and economic development by reinforcing education and training and by assuring their participation in political and economic arenas; and*

(J) *building the capacity of governments in sub-Saharan Africa to set and enforce a legal framework, as well as to enforce the rule of law;*

(6) negotiation of reciprocal trade agreements between the United States and sub-Saharan African countries, with the overall goal of expanding trade across all of sub-Saharan Africa;

(7) the President seeking to negotiate, with interested eligible sub-Saharan African countries, bilateral trade agreements that provide investment opportunities, in accordance with section 2102(b)(3) of the Trade Act of 2002 (19 U.S.C. 3802(b)(3));

(8) efforts by the President to negotiate with the member countries of the Southern African Customs Union in order to provide the opportunity to deepen and make permanent the benefits of the Act while giving the United States access to the markets of these African countries for United States goods and services, by reducing tariffs and non-tariff barriers, strengthening intellectual property protection, improving transparency, establishing general dispute settlement mechanisms, and investor-state and state-to-state dispute settlement mechanisms in investment;

(9) a comprehensive and ambitious trade agreement with the Southern African Customs Union, covering all products and sectors, in order to mature the economic relationship between sub-Saharan African countries and the United States and because such an agreement would deepen United States economic and political ties to the region, lend momentum to United States development efforts, encourage greater United States investment, and promote regional integration and economic growth;

(10) regional integration among sub-Saharan African countries and business partnerships between United States and African firms; and

(11) economic diversification in sub-Saharan African countries and expansion of trade beyond textiles and apparel.

SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON RECIPROCITY AND REGIONAL ECONOMIC INTEGRATION.

It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) the preferential market access opportunities for eligible sub-Saharan African countries will be complemented and enhanced if those countries are implementing actively and fully, consistent with any remaining applicable phase-in periods, their obligations under the World Trade Organization, including obligations under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property, the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, and the Agreement on Trade-Related Investment Measures, as well as the other agreements described in section 101(d) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3511(d));

(2) eligible sub-Saharan African countries should participate in and support mutual trade liberalization in ongoing negotiations under the auspices of the World Trade Organization, including by making reciprocal commitments with respect to improving market access for industrial and agricultural goods, and for services, recognizing that such commitments may need to reflect special and differential treatment for developing countries;

(3) some of the most pernicious trade barriers against exports by developing countries are the trade barriers maintained by other developing countries; therefore, eligible sub-Saharan African countries will benefit from the reduction of trade barriers in other developing countries, especially in developing countries that represent some of the greatest potential markets for African goods and services; and

(4) all countries should make sanitary and phytosanitary decisions on the basis of sound science.

SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON INTERPRETATION OF TEXTILE AND APPAREL PROVISIONS OF AGOA.

It is the sense of the Congress that the executive branch, particularly the Committee for the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA), the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection of the Department of Homeland Security, and the

Department of Commerce, should interpret, implement, and enforce the provisions of section 112 of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, relating to preferential treatment of textile and apparel articles, broadly in order to expand trade by maximizing opportunities for imports of such articles from eligible sub-Saharan African countries.

SEC. 6. DEFINITION.

In this Act, the term “eligible sub-Saharan African country” means an eligible sub-Saharan African country under the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

SEC. 7. EXTENSION OF AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT.

(a) GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES.—

(1) EXTENSION OF PROGRAM.—Section 506B of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2466b) is amended by striking “2008” and inserting “2015”.

(2) INPUTS FROM FORMER BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES.—Section 506A of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2466a) is amended—

(A) in subsection (b)(2)(B), by inserting “or former beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries” after “countries”; and

(B) in subsection (c)—
 (i) by striking “title, the terms” and inserting “title—

“(1) the terms”; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) the term ‘former beneficiary sub-Saharan African country’ means a country that, after being designated as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, ceased to be designated as such a country by reason of its entering into a free trade agreement with the United States.”.

(b) APPAREL ARTICLES.—(1) Section 112(b)(1) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3721(b)(1)) is amended by striking “(including)” and inserting “or both (including)”.

(2) Section 112(b)(3) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3721 (b)(3)) is amended—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “either in the United States or one or more beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries” each place it appears and inserting “in the United States or one or more beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries or former beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries, or both”; and

(ii) by striking “subject to the following:” and inserting “whether or not the apparel articles are also made from any of the fabrics, fabric components formed, or components knit-to-shape described in paragraph (1) or (2) (unless the apparel articles are made exclusively from any of the fabrics, fabric components formed, or components knit-to-shape described in paragraph (1) or (2)), subject to the following:”; and
 (B) by striking subparagraphs (A) and (B) and inserting the following:

“(A) LIMITATIONS ON BENEFITS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Preferential treatment under this paragraph shall be extended in the 1-year period beginning October 1, 2003, and in each of the 11 succeeding 1-year periods, to imports of apparel articles in an amount not to exceed the applicable percentage of the aggregate square meter equivalents of all apparel articles imported into the United States in the preceding 12-month period for which data are available.

“(ii) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘applicable percentage’ means—

“(I) 4.747 percent for the 1-year period beginning October 1, 2003, increased in each of the 5 succeeding 1-year periods by equal increments, so that for the 1-year period beginning October 1, 2007, the applicable percentage does not exceed 7 percent; and

“(II) for each succeeding 1-year period until September 30, 2015, not to exceed 7 percent.

“(B) SPECIAL RULE FOR LESSER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Preferential treatment under this paragraph shall be extended though September 30, 2007, for apparel articles wholly assembled, or knit-to-shape and wholly assembled, or both, in one or more lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries, regardless of the country of origin of the fabric or the yarn used to make such articles, in an amount not to exceed the applicable percentage of the aggregate square meter equivalents of all apparel articles imported into the United States in the preceding 12-month period for which data are available.

“(ii) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For purposes of the subparagraph, the term ‘applicable percentage’ means—

“(I) 2.3571 percent for the 1-year period beginning October 1, 2003;

“(II) 2.6428 percent for the 1-year period beginning October 1, 2004;

“(III) 2.9285 percent for the 1-year period beginning October 1, 2005; and

“(IV) 1.6071 percent for the 1-year period beginning October 1, 2006.

“(iii) LESSER DEVELOPED BENEFICIARY SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRY.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term ‘lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African country’ means—

“(I) a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country that had a per capita gross national product of less than \$1,500 in 1998, as measured by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development;

“(II) Botswana; and

“(III) Namibia.”.

(3) Section 112(b)(5)(A) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3721(b)(5)(A)) is amended to read as follows:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Apparel articles that are both cut (or knit-to-shape) and sewn or otherwise assembled in one or more beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries, to the extent that apparel articles of such fabrics or yarns would be eligible for preferential treatment, without regard to the source of the fabrics or yarns, under Annex 401 to the NAFTA.”.

(c) HANDLOOMED, HANDMADE, FOLKLORE ARTICLES AND ETHNIC PRINTED FABRICS.—Section 112(b)(6) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3721(b)(6)) is amended to read as follows:

“(6) HANDLOOMED, HANDMADE, FOLKLORE ARTICLES AND ETHNIC PRINTED FABRICS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A handloomed, handmade, folklore article or an ethnic printed fabric of a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country or countries that is certified as such by the competent authority of such beneficiary country or countries. For purposes of this section, the President, after consultation with the beneficiary sub-Saharan African country or countries concerned, shall determine which, if any, particular textile and apparel goods of the country (or countries) shall be treated as being handloomed, handmade, or folklore articles or an ethnic printed fabric.

“(B) REQUIREMENTS FOR ETHNIC PRINTED FABRIC.—Ethnic printed fabrics qualified under this paragraph are—

“(i) fabrics containing a selvedge on both edges, having a width of less than 50 inches, classifiable under subheading 5208.52.30 or 5208.52.40 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States;

“(ii) of the type that contains designs, symbols, and other characteristics of African prints—

“(I) normally produced for and sold on the indigenous African market; and

“(II) normally sold in Africa by the piece as opposed to being tailored into garments before being sold in indigenous African markets;

“(iii) printed, including waxed, in one or more eligible beneficiary sub-Saharan countries; and

“(iv) fabrics formed in the United States, from yarns formed in the United States, or from fabric formed in one or more beneficiary sub-Saharan African country from yarn originating in either the United States or one or more beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries.”.

(d) REGIONAL AND U.S. SOURCES.—Section 112(b)(7) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3721(b)(7)) is amended by inserting “or former beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries” after “and one or more beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries” each place it appears.

(e) SPECIAL RULES.—

(1) CERTAIN COMPONENTS.—Section 112(d) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3721(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) CERTAIN COMPONENTS.—An article otherwise eligible for preferential treatment under this section will not be ineligible for such treatment because the article contains—

“(A) any collars or cuffs (cut or knit-to-shape),

“(B) drawstrings,

“(C) shoulder pads or other padding,

“(D) waistbands,

“(E) belt attached to the article,

“(F) straps containing elastic, or

“(G) elbow patches,

that do not meet the requirements set forth in subsection (b), regardless of the country of origin of the item referred to in the applicable subparagraph of this paragraph.”.

(2) DE MINIMIS RULE.—Section 112(d)(2) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3721(d)(2)) is amended—

(A) by inserting “or former beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries” after “countries”;

and

(B) by striking “7 percent” and inserting “10 percent”.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—Section 112(e) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (19 U.S.C. 3721(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) FORMER SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN COUNTRY.—The term ‘former sub-Saharan African country’ means a country that, after being designated as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country under this Act, ceased to be designated as such a beneficiary sub-Saharan country by reason of its entering into a free trade agreement with the United States.”.

SEC. 8. ENTRIES OF CERTAIN APPAREL ARTICLES PURSUANT TO THE AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 514 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1514) or any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Treasury shall liquidate or reliquidate as free of duty and free of any quantitative restrictions, limitations, or consultation levels entries of articles described in subsection (d) made on or after October 1, 2000, and before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) REQUESTS.—Liquidation or reliquidation may be made under subsection (a) with respect to an entry described in subsection (d) only if a request therefor is filed with the Secretary of the Treasury within 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and the request contains sufficient information to enable the Secretary to locate the entry or reconstruct the entry if it cannot be located.

(c) PAYMENT OF AMOUNTS OWED.—Any amounts owed by the United States pursuant to the liquidation or reliquidation of any entry under subsection (a) shall be paid not later than 180 days after the date of such liquidation or reliquidation.

(d) ENTRIES.—The entries referred to in subsection (a) are entries of apparel articles that meet the requirements of section 112(b) of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, as amended by section 3108 of the Trade Act of 2002 and this Act.

SEC. 9. DEVELOPMENT STUDY AND CAPACITY BUILDING.

(a) REPORTS.—The President shall, by not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, conduct a study on each eligible sub-Saharan African country, that—

(1) identifies sectors of the economy of that country with the greatest potential for growth, including through export sales;

(2) identifies barriers, both domestically and internationally, that are impeding growth in such sectors; and

(3) makes recommendations on how the United States Government and the private sector can provide technical assistance to that country to assist in dismantling such barriers and in promoting investment in such sectors.

(b) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—The President shall disseminate information in each study conducted under subsection (a) to the appropriate United States agencies for the purpose of implementing recommendations on the provision of technical assistance and in identifying opportunities for United States investors, businesses, and farmers.

SEC. 10. ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT INCREASING TRADE CAPACITY AND ECOTOURISM.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) Ecotourism, which consists of—

(A) responsible and sustainable travel and visitation to relatively undisturbed natural areas in order to enjoy and appreciate nature (and any accompanying cultural features, both past and present) and animals, including species that are rare or endangered,

(B) promotion of conservation and provision for beneficial involvement of local populations, and

(C) visitation designed to have low negative impact upon the environment,

is expected to expand 30 percent globally over the next decade.

(2) Ecotourism will increase trade capacity by sustaining otherwise unsustainable infrastructure, such as road, port, water, energy, and telecommunication development.

(3) According to the United States Department of State and the United Nations Environment Programme, sustainable tourism, such as ecotourism, can be an important part of the economic development of a region, especially a region with natural and cultural protected areas.

(4) Sub-Saharan Africa enjoys an international comparative advantage in ecotourism because it features extensive protected areas that host a variety of ecosystems and traditional cultures that are major attractions for nature-oriented tourism.

(5) National parks and reserves in sub-Saharan Africa should be considered a basis for regional development, involving communities living within and adjacent to them and, given their strong international recognition, provide an advantage in ecotourism marketing and promotion.

(6) Desert areas in sub-Saharan Africa represent complex ecotourism attractions, showcasing natural, geological, and archaeological features, and nomad and other cultures and traditions.

(7) Many natural zones in sub-Saharan Africa cross the political borders of several countries; therefore, transboundary cooperation is fundamental for all types of ecotourism development.

(8) The commercial viability of ecotourism is enhanced when small and medium enterprises, particularly microenterprises, successfully engage with the tourism industry in sub-Saharan Africa.

(9) Adequate capacity building is an essential component of ecotourism development if local communities are to be real stakeholders that can sustain an equitable approach to ecotourism management.

(10) Ecotourism needs to generate local community benefits by utilizing sub-Saharan Africa's natural heritage, parks, wildlife reserves, and other protected areas that can play a significant role in encouraging local economic development by sourcing food and other locally produced resources.

(b) ACTION BY THE PRESIDENT.—The President shall develop and implement policies to—

(1) encourage the development of infrastructure projects that will help to increase trade ca-

capacity and a sustainable ecotourism industry in eligible sub-Saharan African countries;

(2) encourage and facilitate transboundary cooperation among sub-Saharan African countries in order to facilitate trade;

(3) encourage the provision of technical assistance to eligible sub-Saharan African countries to establish and sustain adequate trade capacity development; and

(4) encourage micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises in eligible sub-Saharan African countries to participate in the ecotourism industry.

SEC. 11. ACTIVITIES IN SUPPORT OF TRANSPORTATION, ENERGY, AGRICULTURE, AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) In order to increase exports from, and trade among, eligible sub-Saharan African countries, transportation systems in those countries must be improved to increase transport efficiencies and lower transport costs.

(2) Vibrant economic growth requires a developed telecommunication and energy infrastructure.

(3) Sub-Saharan Africa is rich in exportable agricultural goods, but development of this industry remains stymied because of an underdeveloped infrastructure.

(b) ACTION BY THE PRESIDENT.—In order to enhance trade with Africa and to bring the benefits of trade to African countries, the President shall develop and implement policies to encourage investment in eligible sub-Saharan African countries, particularly with respect to the following:

(1) Infrastructure projects that support, in particular, development of land transport road and railroad networks and ports, and the continued upgrading and liberalization of the energy and telecommunications sectors.

(2) The establishment and expansion of modern information and communication technologies and practices to improve the ability of citizens to research and disseminate information relating to, among other things, the economy, education, trade, health, agriculture, the environment, and the media.

(3) Agriculture, particularly in processing and capacity enhancement.

SEC. 12. FACILITATION OF TRANSPORTATION.

In order to facilitate and increase trade flows between eligible sub-Saharan African countries and the United States, the President shall foster improved port-to-port and airport-to-airport relationships. These relationships should facilitate—

(1) increased coordination between customs services at ports and airports in the United States and such countries in order to reduce time in transit;

(2) interaction between customs and technical staff from ports and airports in the United States and such countries in order to increase efficiency and safety procedures and protocols relating to trade;

(3) coordination between chambers of commerce, freight forwarders, customs brokers, and others involved in consolidating and moving freight; and

(4) trade through air service between airports in the United States and such countries by increasing frequency and capacity.

SEC. 13. AGRICULTURAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) IDENTIFICATION OF COUNTRIES.—The President shall identify not fewer than 10 eligible sub-Saharan African countries as having the greatest potential to increase marketable exports of agricultural products to the United States and the greatest need for technical assistance, particularly with respect to pest risk assessments and complying with sanitary and phytosanitary rules of the United States.

(b) PERSONNEL.—The President shall assign at least 20 full-time personnel for the purpose of

providing assistance to the countries identified under subsection (a) to ensure that exports of agricultural products from those countries meet the requirements of United States law.

SEC. 14. TRADE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON AFRICA.

The President shall convene the trade advisory committee on Africa established by Executive Order 11846 of March 27, 1975, under section 135(c) of the Trade Act of 1974, in order to facilitate the goals and objectives of the African Growth and Opportunity Act and this Act, and to maintain ongoing discussions with African trade and agriculture ministries and private sector organizations on issues of mutual concern, including regional and international trade concerns and World Trade Organization issues.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS).

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 4103, the AGOA Acceleration Act, was ordered favorably reported by the Committee on Ways and Means and was amended by a voice vote on May 5. Once again this bill provides the means for African countries to develop a more prosperous economic environment, a well-grounded rule of law, and efficient and acceptable government practices. I am very pleased that, as in the past, this bill has garnered broad support. Especially I would like to reference the ranking member of the committee, the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL); the chairman, Subcommittee on Trade, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CRANE); the ranking member, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN); and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT), who has been one of the Committee on Ways and Means' leading advocates for additional assistance and trade to Africa.

□ 1430

I am also pleased to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) of the Committee on International Relations and the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE) of that committee for the courtesies they extended to us in getting this bill to the floor. The Committee on International Relations indicated there were two provisions in this bill that were under the jurisdiction of the committee. In working with the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE), I am pleased to indicate that in expediting consideration of the bill, the chairman graciously agreed to forego consideration by that committee, notwithstanding the jurisdiction of that committee, and to exchange letters. And I would include the letters in the RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, there is an urgent need for this bill. A provision allowing the poorest African countries to use third-country fabric and apparel production will expire at the end of September if we do nothing. My plea, I guess, is to a certain extent hopefully heard on the other side of the Capitol by the other body. This bill would extend the provi-

sion subject to a cap for 3 years and phase it out in the final year, a pragmatic approach that balances the needs of the African countries while assuring the U.S. industry is not threatened and can even be helped through the development of partnerships, especially in the area of raw materials.

Our bill does not merely extend these benefits. It accelerates Africa's utilization of the original AGOA benefits by expanding African capacity and infrastructure to attract investment in regional fabric production so that Africa can hope to compete in a post-quota world.

One of the best ways the Africans can make themselves competitive is to work with us to achieve trade liberalization in the World Trade Organization. Such liberalization will benefit Africa enormously by reducing the duties it must pay and by facilitating trade. In addition, as long as they are comprehensive, I support ongoing free trade negotiations with the Southern African Customs Union, which will help to deepen and make permanent existing AGOA benefits for Africans in Africa. At the same time, we expect meaningful access to the markets of these African countries for U.S. goods and services in an open trading arrangement.

I believe helping Africa through trade will contribute to more fundamental improvements in governance and of course the overall quality of life in Africa. Critical benefits for our African partners will expire soon if Congress does not take immediate action.

Mr. Speaker, this was delayed a week because of the circumstances surrounding last week. We need to move forward with this legislation. My fervent hope is that with the House acting today in the manner in which I believe we will act, that is, overwhelming bipartisan support, that we can focus the attention of the other body that this is a measure that needs to move expeditiously through both bodies so that we can provide this kind of accelerated help to Sub-Saharan Africa, and I strongly urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4103.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, May 19, 2004.

Hon. HENRY J. HYDE, Chairman,
Committee on International Relations
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN HYDE: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4103, the "AGOA Acceleration Act of 2004."

As you have noted, the Committee on Ways and Means ordered favorably reported, as amended, H.R. 4103, the "AGOA Acceleration Act of 2004," on Wednesday, May 5, 2004. I appreciate your agreement to expedite the passage of this legislation although it contains two provisions within your Committee's jurisdiction. I acknowledge your decision to forego further action on the bill is based on the understanding that it will not prejudice the Committee on International Relations with respect to its jurisdictional prerogatives or the appointment of conferees on this or similar legislation.

Our committees have long collaborated on this important initiative, and I am very

pleased we are continuing that cooperation. Your leadership on African issues is critical to the success of this bill and the AGOA program. I appreciate your helping us to move this legislation quickly to the floor.

Finally, I will include the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter. Thank you for your assistance and cooperation. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Best regards,

BILL THOMAS,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS,

Washington, DC, May 19, 2004.

Hon. WILLIAM M. THOMAS, Chairman,
Committee on Ways and Means,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN THOMAS: I am writing concerning H.R. 4103, the "AGOA Acceleration Act of 2004," which was ordered favorably reported, as amended, by the Committee on Ways and Means on Wednesday, May 5, 2004.

As you know, the Committee on International Relations has jurisdiction over matters concerning relations of the United States with foreign nations generally. Sections 10 and 13 of the bill involve U.S. efforts to provide assistance to certain African nations and thus fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on International Relations. However, in order to expedite this legislation for floor consideration, the Committee will forgo action on this bill. This is being done with the understanding that it does not in any way prejudice the Committee with respect to the appointment of conferees or its jurisdictional prerogatives on this or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter, confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 4103, and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during floor consideration.

With best wishes, I remain

Sincerely,

HENRY J. HYDE,
Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation. I regret that the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), who has been a lead sponsor for many years, and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) cannot be here, that there was not able to be worked out accommodations so that they and others who have worked together on a bipartisan bill could be present.

When I talk about the efforts of these gentlemen on a bipartisan basis, I really mean it. The bill was signed originally into law in 2000. It was after years of work and years when it was not at all clear that there could be an agreement regarding trade with African nations. So let me proceed, if I might; and my hope remains that others will still be able to make it. I think under the circumstances, it is going to be exceedingly difficult for them to participate, and I want to express again my regret.

The history of this bill, as I mentioned, is one of effort over the years. And if one looks at what has happened since then, I think one will come to

this conclusion: that this has been a useful endeavor, that we needed to open up our relationships with African nations; that we needed to do so on many bases, economic trade being one but an important one, and that there had been for a long time an ignoring of the importance of our relationship with African nations.

I think the last few years have shown that this was an important idea. In terms of our economic relationships, there has been an improvement. There has been a greater flow back and forth. And in trade issues it is important to look at the flow both ways, and in this case there has been an increased amount of activity both from here to Africa and from African nations back to the United States in the billions of dollars.

So this has not been a cure-all, and no one would pretend that it has been or really could be. This has not brought an absolutely new day within African nations or in our relationship. But it has helped; and as a result, a number of countries in Africa have found their exports to the U.S. increasing, and I think that has fortified activities within those countries. And I think there has been mutual benefit. No one should think in trade it is always win-win on all sides. There are impacts both positive and negative; but I think if we look over the general trend, AGOA has been an important step in the right direction.

If we do not pass this legislation, what would happen is that all of a sudden this experiment, this endeavor, this step forward in our relationship would cease. It would mean in the important area of apparel and textiles that African nations would be at a more serious disadvantage with other countries than they might otherwise be. And I think when we look at the overall picture, that would be bad for Africa; and that would be bad for the United States. The quotas come off on apparel and textiles at the end of this year. We need to get ready for that event. I think it is important that we continue this relationship with African countries.

So I urge support for this. It is not wise or prudent for us in this country after these years of AGOA to say that it should end. It is not wise after these years of increasing relationships economically that we say essentially we are turning our back. Again, this is only one factor in relationship to Africa and to African countries. It is only one factor in building up the ties between our two continents that are so important now and for the future. But it has on balance been, I think, an important building block, and I do not think it is wise at all to remove it at this point, and that is what is threatened here.

So I urge support for this. I do so on behalf of the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL). I do so on behalf of the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT), who also could not be

here quite yet, and on behalf of the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON). And while I do not speak for those on the other side, I do want to say to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and others who have worked so hard on this that I think it is important that we continue this effort.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), the chairman of the Africa Subcommittee of the Committee on International Relations.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, as an original sponsor of this legislation, I have welcomed working with the gentleman from California (Chairman THOMAS) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), ranking member; the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT); the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON); the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CRANE); the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), and other Members from both sides of the aisle who have been advancing the AGOA program for years now.

Since becoming chairman of the Africa Subcommittee 7 years ago, one of our top priorities has been working to see that Africa does not fall off the edge of the world's economic map; and, frankly, Africa is teetering on that edge. Fortunately, though, AGOA has been a lifeline for Africa to the global economy.

Today, 3 years into the AGOA program, we know that it has worked. Many of us that have worked on this legislation, of course, wish that more African countries and more African industries were taking advantage of AGOA, and we wish they particularly would take advantage of AGOA in agriculture. That is why this legislation includes trade capacity-building provisions, but in a few short years AGOA has managed to draw hundreds of millions of dollars of foreign investment to the continent, creating hundreds of thousands of desperately needed jobs. This makes AGOA the most effective of our development programs for Africa that I am aware of.

Several Members, in fact, have had the opportunity to visit these apparel plants as we have traveled to Africa to see this encouraging development firsthand. Africans are meeting world-class standards for manufactured goods. This makes AGOA a big morale boost for many African countries. AGOA has also encouraged difficult economic reforms as African countries have strived to maintain their eligibility for AGOA.

AGOA has also bolstered our political relations with many African governments. Few African officials that I have met with have not expressed their support and appreciation for AGOA. They almost always begin the meeting by explaining how it has brought economic reform to their country and increased trade with the United States.

This is important diplomatic capital that our country has gained through AGOA.

The African continent, frankly, is at a crossroads. The vision many of us have is of an Africa that joins the world economy, the vision that we have had of working for an increasingly stable and democratic Africa that is combating HIV/AIDS and exporting and importing more goods and services, including from America. That is the vision that we share, I think, on this floor.

The other very different path Africa could get stuck on leads to even greater poverty and greater hunger and conflict and, frankly, greater disease and environmental degradation. It is unclear which way Africa is headed. Challenges on the continent are immense. But what is quite clear is that our growing security and economic interests on the continent would suffer greatly should Africa find itself on the downward path.

□ 1445

If the U.S. Congress fails to pass this AGOA legislation before the third country fabric provisions expire in September, as we have heard today, if we fail to extend it for 3 years, we will be undoing much of the good that AGOA has done. Greater competition from China and other countries is coming soon, as apparel trading rules are set to change. Unless we act, this competition will surely wipe out much of Africa's young apparel industry and many African jobs that AGOA has created, and, frankly, it will wipe out much African hope. Already apparel orders for Africa are being canceled because of the uncertainty over Congress' action. We must act. Our credibility as a Nation that takes an interest in the world's poorest countries is on the line. Let us act and do our part to direct Africa away from a path of despair.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4103. I thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and the other Members that have worked with the gentleman from California (Chairman THOMAS) to support this legislation.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON).

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for his kindness of yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, regretfully, I rise to oppose H.R. 4103, the Africa Growth and Opportunity Acceleration Act of 2004. I am deeply concerned by the fact that this bill only deepens the discriminatory U.S. trade policies towards sub-Saharan African nations created by the original 2000 act, Public Law 106-200. It is indefensible, Mr. Speaker, that the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act has been and remains the only U.S. trade program under which countries must be annually certified as meeting an extensive list of unilateral, and, frankly,

counterproductive conditions before being granted benefits.

Other U.S. preferential trade programs with Andean countries, Caribbean and Central American nations contain a more limited set of conditions and nations are considered eligible throughout the term of the program unless action is taken to petition them out. The Africa Growth and Opportunity Act sets a double standard for Africa.

Some of the most outrageous conditional adversities of H.R. 4103 include, first, sub-Saharan African countries must pursue policies that are deemed to be in line with U.S. national security and foreign policy interests, even if those interests run contrary to U.S. national security or foreign policy interests in the interest of domestic security within their own nations. It does not mean that they are against U.S. national security interests, it simply means they have their own national security interests that must be concerned and paramount for their governments.

Second, a further undermining of sovereignty by insisting on liberalization and privatization policies, such as water privatization. Now, imagine that; the privatization of water in sub-Saharan Africa, where increasingly there are a number of droughts. Who would come up with the idea that privatization policies, such as water privatization, should be a priority in H.R. 4103? But it is in this legislation. The removal of state controls on foreign investments, price controls and subsidies.

Third, the unilateral requirement that U.S. investors doing business in African Growth and Opportunity countries must be granted national investor status.

Fourth, countries must provide full legal protection and enforcement for intellectual property rights, including the private ownership of African seeds and animal genetic materials.

H.R. 4103 ignores the most serious existing problems of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, which I opposed in 2000. I might add, Mr. Speaker, I was one of a handful of members of the Congressional Black Caucus that opposed the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act for these reasons. I might add that an overwhelming number of members of the Congressional Black Caucus, including the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON) and others, are supportive of AGOA.

This bill, however, continues to impose upon African nations a set of policies that have been proven to undermine development, but benefit U.S. multinational corporations and foreign investors, in exchange for meager market access benefits.

This bill in 2000 was sold to the American people as trade, not aid; a helping hand, but not a handout. But by eliminating these conditionalities

and the annual review, I am convinced this is the only way to ensure equal treatment for our African trading partners, as we have sought to create equal treatment for Andean, Caribbean and Central American nations as well. Why the double standard for Africa? Why the annual recertification of African partners, if in fact we believe that these African nations are our genuine and honest partners?

If we are to attach any conditions to the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act Program, our interests, from my perspective, would far better be served by an insistence on better treatment for factory workers and stronger legal protections for union activities in these countries. If we genuinely expect trade to help lift people out of poverty, we cannot continue to burden these countries with rules and requirements that undermine development and leave workers powerless to fight the exploitation and abuse that is an integral part of the corporate race to the bottom.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I respectfully cannot support H.R. 4103.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN).

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Michigan for his leadership on trade issues, and I want to echo the words of the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON) in his opposition to H.R. 4103.

H.R. 4103 represents another lost opportunity in terms of international trade, in terms of our dealings with Africa. We have failed Africa in this body on aid issues, we have failed Africa in this body on trade issues. This lost opportunity of H.R. 4103 is embodied in the fact that we could have lifted up standards for African workers and for American workers and for our trade agreements and trade relations. But what is embodied in H.R. 4103 runs through our entire trade policy.

The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON) talked about loss of sovereignty in the developing world; that we have through various kinds of programs for all kinds of trade adjustments, all kinds of other issues, what has run through our programs is loss of sovereignty, the push to privatization in these countries. He mentioned privatization of their water system, that we have come in through structural adjustment and other programs, forcing cutting of health benefits, cutting of education benefits. We have lost opportunity in H.R. 4103 to allow and encourage and push in allowing unionization, allowing the ability to bargain collectively and to organize in the developing world.

Instead, we are, as the gentleman said, engaging in a corporate race to the bottom. We have done that with the North American Free Trade Agreement, we have done it with our trade agreements with Singapore and Chile. We did it 4 years ago with the first round of AGOA. We are doing it again today.

Instead, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON) introduced 4 years ago what would be a prototype on trade agreements, to lift up standards, to encourage unionization, to have international labor organization standards, to have environmental standards, to have food safety standards, to guarantee sovereignty, to move away from the kinds of privatization and undercutting sovereignty that we have too often done through structural adjustment and other methods in the developing world.

This H.R. 4103, the acceleration of AGOA, only hurts the developing world, only hurts U.S. workers. Ultimately it helps in the corporate race to the bottom, it helps add to corporate coffers, corporate profits. It does nothing for workers in Africa or in the United States.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

I was going to make the point that under AGOA, and there are 37 countries that have qualified for the African Growth and Opportunity Act, this act is supported in fact by all the governments of Africa. We have heard from their diplomatic corps. We have heard that increased trade from Africa as a result of this act, drastically increased trade, has been a win for Africa and has been a win for the United States.

But I did want to clarify one point. There have been no countries that have been dropped from this list because of water issues or questions about privatization of water, and there certainly have been no countries dropped because of intellectual property rights issues.

The one case of a country that was dropped from eligibility for AGOA is the case of Eritrea. In this particular instance, it goes to the issue of human rights, and human rights, because this is a unilateral trade preference granted these governments, there is an expectation that they will conform to worldwide, accepted practices.

Now, this is not just an issue with the United States; this is an issue worldwide. I would just take, for example, the case of Aster Yohannes, who was studying here in the United States. She went back to see her children in Eritrea and was arrested at the airport. Before making that trip, she checked with the ambassador from Eritrea, she was given assurances she could safely go back to her country. She checked with me and I talked with the ambassador, and in writing I was given this assurance. This is not just, as I say, an issue with the United States, these human rights abuses. They are worldwide, because the entire press corps has been arrested in Eritrea, the political opposition has been arrested.

So under these particular circumstances, it is not just the U.S., but the world community, that has launched a campaign to try to have

some reform in Eritrea, and this is why it is not on the list. I thought it would be good to take a moment to explain that, and also explain that it does not go to the issue of national security inside Eritrea, it goes to human rights.

The last point I just wanted to make is that many of these apparel jobs in Africa will otherwise go to China if we do not follow forward and extend AGOA, the provision for third country fabric in AGOA. I think all of the Members here understand how important this particular program of AGOA has been to the continent, and would like to move forward. So I urge passage of this legislation.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, very briefly, I am glad the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) described the general structure of AGOA. I think that is sometimes lost. It operates within essentially the GSP system. So there are provisions and there are safeguards, as mentioned, relating to human rights, and the same is true if our country pursues them relating to core labor standards.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I will place in the record a statement of administration policy. It starts, "The administration strongly supports House passage of H.R. 4103."

I would say to my colleague from Illinois and my colleague from Ohio, that I do not see on the floor, that this broad-based, bipartisan coalition is always open to having pointed out our inability to be as responsive to Africa as perhaps many would want. One of my responses back would be, notwithstanding all of the things that need to be done, this was a piece of legislation that languished for a long time.

To the degree that we can do better, we always want to focus on doing better. But with the underlying provisions expiring in September, what we need is momentum now, with an understanding that far more needs to be done. This is the start of a positive, cooperative, mutually beneficial relationship with a portion of Africa, here sub-Saharan Africa. It ought not to be the only legislation that we ever consider and that we need to work together to move forward.

□ 1500

But it is the only legislation available within the time frame prior to the expiration of the current legislation.

So I would tell my friend, the gentleman from Illinois, that I look forward to working with him on additional pieces of legislation, with the understanding that our goal is to be bipartisan and make law. What we cannot do in dealing with Africa is to be partisan and make statements. That has gone on far too long.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the African Growth and Op-

portunity Act, H.R. 4103 and am a co-sponsor of the legislation. The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) authorizes the President to provide duty-free treatment under the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) for any article when imported from African countries if the United States Trade Representative (USTR) and the United States International Trade Commission (USITC) have determined that the article is not import sensitive with respect to imports from sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries.

On December 21, 2000, the President extended duty free treatment under GSP to AGOA-eligible countries for more than 1,800 tariff line items in addition to the standard GSP list of approximately 4,600 items available to non-AGOA GSP beneficiary countries. The duty-free treatment for the additional 1,800 products available to AGOA countries only, implemented after an extensive process of public comment and review, include such previously GSP-excluded items as footwear, luggage, handbags, watches, and flatware.

Currently, only a small number of countries receive substantial benefits, and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) that do not receive preferences for clothing have yet to see an impact of AGOA on their overall exports.

However, the benefits from exporting clothing under AGOA appear fragile in the face of the removal of quotas in the United States on major suppliers, such as China, at the end of 2004, and the planned removal of the liberal rules of origin that allow for the global sourcing of fabrics from least-cost locations.

While the general business climate has improved since the passage of AGOA, the steady growth in the petroleum and mining sectors probably would have occurred due to other market factors. Also, growth in these sectors produces relatively low direct benefits to Africa's poor. Currently, one third of Africa's population is undernourished and nearly half live on less than \$1 a day. Most of the poor live in rural areas and depend largely on agriculture, which accounts for 35 percent of sub-Saharan Africa's gross domestic product, 40 percent of its exports, and 70 percent of its employment. Expanding AGOA's application to African agriculture would have a significant impact on reducing hunger and poverty, and therefore on improving overall conditions in sub-Saharan Africa. The International Food Policy Research Institute estimated that a 1 percent increase in agricultural productivity would raise the income of six million African people above \$1 per day. A \$1 increase in agricultural production generates about \$2.32 in economic growth. Thus, expanding market access and lowering trade barriers for African agricultural products through AGOA will have the greatest impact, not only on the poorest people in SSA but also on national economies.

AGOA has laid a strong foundation for dialogue and partnership between U.S. and African governments and businesses. It fosters an environment that is stimulating new development and investments in SSA. The annual U.S.-Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum, along with the parallel events sponsored by business and civil society groups, facilitate contacts and strengthen relationships. There is also an increased understanding within Africa of the complexities, challenges and opportunities of economic and political reform, which will enable African busi-

ness to be more competitive in the global economy. Yet all of these accomplishments remain only the first steps toward what many hope will be a much fuller and more mutually beneficial trade and investment engagement between Africa and the United States.

Inclusion of textile products with appropriate labor and U.S. industry input, and a number of high-duty agricultural products would also help to broaden the range of opportunities for African exporters in the U.S. market.

Mr. Speaker, for the reasons above, I support the passage of this bill and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, Africa stands taller and prouder today. From Lesotho, to Nigeria, to Uganda, Sub-Saharan African nations joined together and spoke as one. Their voice was eloquent and urgent, and America listened.

Today, 400 million Africans live on less than a dollar a day. But there is great promise for the future. Today, HIV/AIDS claims millions of lives in Sub-Saharan Africa. But there is hope for the future.

Today, Sub-Saharan Africa looks inward to make the social, political and economic changes that will rekindle its pre-eminence on a great continent.

All that Africa is, all that Africa represents, has inspired and united the political parties in the House of Representatives.

Africa bridged America's political divide with a profound affirmation of its past and a persuasive optimism about its future.

For the first time in a long time, Democrats and Republicans in the People's House did not cross swords.

Instead, we locked arms and reached for something bigger than any one political leader or party.

Today, America spoke as one people—extending our hands, our hearts, ourselves, to the nations of Sub-Saharan Africa.

The winds of change are blowing across the Serengeti, and America has joined the voices of Africa's leaders.

By overwhelming passing AGOA, the House of Representatives has affirmed that Africa's Destiny is within Africa's reach.

The Trade opportunities AGOA provides will continue Sub-Saharan Africa's economic development.

Every new step taken to develop these economies is another stride toward self-sufficiency.

AGOA is a stride toward a better life for millions of African people.

AGOA is a blow to the spread of HIV/AIDS, a pandemic that threatens to rob Africa of its brightest promise—its people.

AGOA will expand trade which in turn will attract new capital and encourage the development of new infrastructure.

Roads bring goods to market and roads will bring visitors to Eco-tourism parks.

The majesty of a lion roaming free in Africa's great nature parks will be Africa's symbol of a great continent awakening.

The nobility, grace and dignity of a great nation distant land is closer to us today.

We should all be proud that the People's House reached across the ocean in friendship and joined Africa on its journey to reach its deserved destiny.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion

offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4103, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4103, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

APPROVING THE RENEWAL OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS CONTAINED IN BURMESE FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2003

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 97) approving the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 97

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress approves the renewal of the import restrictions contained in section 3(a)(1) of the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS).

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of this bill, I support extending sanctions on Burma for an additional year within the framework enacted into law last year under the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act.

Mr. Speaker, I generally do not believe in unilateral trade sanctions. They are often emotional responses to atrocious acts and have unintended consequences, oftentimes harming the people that we, in fact, were seeking to assist. For example, the State Department notes that the Burma import restrictions have caused 50,000 to 60,000 workers in Burma to lose their jobs. These people were not narrowly helped by the sanctions.

But, at the same time, the actions of the ruling junta in Burma continue to be unacceptable. I believe sanctions are appropriate if the circumstances are, 1, limited; 2, targeted; 3, reexamined yearly, and if we continuously analyze them to make sure they are not causing more harm than good. We must

also examine the question of harm and good in short term and in long term.

The law passed last year requires the administration to issue a report on whether sanctions have been effective in improving conditions in Burma and furthering U.S. objectives. The State Department, in its first report, states that the sanctions represent "a clear and powerful expression of American opposition to the developments in Burma over the past year." The Department observes that the overall human rights record in Burma has worsened over the past year. While the junta has made some apparently superficial efforts toward democracy with its "road map," it does not appear that Burma is on the road to true, fundamental democratic reform.

The State Department's report, however, also notes that no other country has implemented the same set of economic sanctions as the United States; and the U.S. import ban would be, according to the report, "far more effective" if other countries would do the same.

So, Mr. Speaker, although I support the extension of the sanctions for 1 year, I strongly encourage this administration to pursue a more aggressive multilateral sanctions approach in Burma. That government must be truly isolated. It is vital that the administration work with other countries to reach multilateral sanctions. This effort is key if we are to continue sanctions against Burma.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation. I also believe that a more multilateral approach is in order. I also think as we discuss Burma, we should look at the experience that international bodies are having, including the ILO and the inability of the ILO, as it is presently structured, to proceed with any real teeth. I think that emphasizes why the United States, as we put forth and put together trade agreements, should incorporate into these trade agreements provisions that relate to the work, for example, of the ILO and core labor standards.

I support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the distinguished ranking member, and I ask unanimous consent that he control the balance of the time on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Joint Resolution 97, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would first like to express my appreciation to my friend and fellow Californian, (Chairman BILL THOMAS), for his assistance in moving this legislation to the floor so expedi-

tiously, and to my colleagues, the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), for their leadership on Burma and for granting me the privilege of managing this bill today for the Democratic side.

Mr. Speaker, a year ago, the Burmese regime launched a brutal crackdown on Burmese democratic leader Aung San Suu Kyi and other members of the National League for Democracy. Burma's authoritarian ruler simply could not accept the fact that Aung San Suu Kyi remained enormously popular a dozen years after the government nullified the fair and free elections that she won.

Just 10 months ago, Mr. Speaker, President Bush signed into law my bill imposing comprehensive sanctions on Burma. My legislation was approved by this House overwhelmingly, 418 ayes to 2 noes.

Sadly, the case for a tough approach toward Burma, including import sanctions, is even stronger today than a year ago. Countless National League for Democracy leaders remain behind bars. Aung San Suu Kyi, a woman of extraordinary courage, is locked inside her house and there is little prospect that the Burmese junta will engage in meaningful dialogue with the National League for Democracy and other democratic leaders.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, the Burmese regime is currently holding a "national convention" to write a new constitution for Burma. The meeting itself is a complete and utter sham. The Burmese leadership refused to let Aung San Suu Kyi participate, apparently afraid that her eloquent words would convince the delegates to move towards democracy and away from dictatorship.

For that reason, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the House is moving forward with this bipartisan initiative to renew Burma import sanctions. Burma's ruling elite, who have a questionable direct financial tie to most enterprises in Burma, must understand that they will be unable to enrich themselves off the American consumer.

To those who argue that the sanctions have not worked, I have two responses. First, when Congress imposed import sanctions on Burma, we fully understood that such measures might take years, if not decades, to bring change to Burma, certainly not 10 months. If 10 months were the standard duration for American import sanctions, South Africans would still be governed by the apartheid regime, and Libya would have developed and deployed nuclear weapons instead of surrendering them to the United States.

Second, the United States must make it a top priority to convince our key allies in Europe and in Asia to adopt import sanctions on the Burmese regime. Unfortunately, the executive branch has made little or no effort to accomplish this important task. If sanctions fail to quickly bring change

to Burma, it is not because they represent the wrong approach; it is because high-level administration officials have not picked up the phone to urge our European Union counterparts to adopt targeted import sanctions on Burma.

While we would all like to see a negotiated solution to Burma's political crisis, we cannot be naive enough to believe that Burma's leaders have changed their stripes. They have no intention of allowing Aung San Suu Kyi, a woman they tried to kill just a few months ago, to participate meaningfully in free and fair elections, let alone to transfer power to her political party.

If I am proven wrong, Mr. Speaker, and Burma's ruling thugs win the Noble Peace Prize in 2005 for working out an agreement with the opposition, we will have plenty of time to express our congratulations and to lift sanctions at that point. Until then, we must ratchet up pressure on the Burmese thugs who are running that country and assure that our allies do so as well.

Mr. Speaker, we all look forward to a day when we will welcome Aung San Suu Kyi to Washington as the leader of a free and democratic Burma. She will follow in the footsteps of Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic and of all of the other leaders who fought for freedom in Central and Eastern Europe. But we will achieve that goal only by maintaining strong pressure on Burma's ruling dictatorial clique and convincing our allies to do so as well.

I strongly support this legislation, and I urge all of my colleagues to do so as well.

Mr. Speaker, I again want to thank the gentleman from California (Chairman THOMAS) for his extraordinary leadership on this issue, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank my colleague for the kind words. I too want to make sure that the record reflects that the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) once again shows that his concern is in the forefront for peoples all over the world and simply for their ability, their right to express themselves.

I strongly urge passage of H.J. Res. 97.

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.J. Res. 97, a measure to approve the renewal of import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003. At the outset, let me express my appreciation to the leadership of the distinguished Chairmen and Ranking Members of both the International Relations and Ways and Means Committees for moving this resolution on a timely basis.

On March 25, the Subcommittees on Asia held its third hearing in 2 years on developments in Burma. Unfortunately, it was made clear during the course of the hearing that Burma made little progress toward democratic reform in the past year, and in fact the country has yet to return to even the admittedly low,

but hopeful status it had achieved prior to the May 30 attack on democracy activist Aung San Suu Kyi and other members of the National League for Democracy (NLD).

Indeed, as many suspected would be the case, Burmese Prime Minister Khin Nyunt's announcement of a seven-point "road map" for political reconciliation in the fall of 2003 has been revealed to be a sham. Burma's military junta, known as the State Peace and Development Council, has proceeded with a so-called National Convention despite the nonparticipation of the National League for Democracy (NLD), and without freeing the NLD's leader Aung San Suu Kyi. In so doing the Burmese military leadership has exposed for all to see its determination to push for a new constitution that would legitimize its dominance and control over the country's politics and governance, even under a future "civilian" administration.

As my colleagues understand, Burma presents one of the most complicated and vexing foreign policy challenges in Asia for the United States and the world community. Numerous political prisoners remain in detention, including one of the most remarkable and courageous leaders of our time, Aung San Suu Kyi. The issue is how can the U.S. best secure their release and help start a meaningful political dialogue in Burma, while also endeavoring to advance a panoply of other priorities, including stable democratic governance, human rights, counternarcotics, regional stability, combating the HIV/AIDS pandemic, as well as economic and human development more broadly.

In this context, it is self-evident that the U.S. is confronted by multiple dilemmas in pursuing our objectives in Burma. For illustrative purposes, I would note just a few: the strongly nationalistic, self-centered outlook of the ruling regime; the reliance by the military elite on an illicit, underground economy for power and survival; the inability of major industrial countries to agree on comprehensive sanctions as the basis for a common strategy; competition for geopolitical influence in Burma between China and India; and the ongoing humanitarian crisis for the people of Burma—including for the hundreds of thousands of internally displaced ethnic minority groups along the country's borders—that calls out for a more robust and humane international response.

Nevertheless, in response to repeated efforts by the ruling military to thwart the democratic aspirations of the Burmese people as well as to ongoing serious human rights violations, the U.S. has been compelled to utilize sanctions and coercive diplomacy as the centerpiece of our policy. Given the deeply disappointing lack of progress in Burma over the past year, there is no credible option at this time but to renew current sanctions.

Here it is critically important for Congress and the Administration to reaffirm our unflinching support for those who want freedom in Burma. We honor the leadership of Aung San Suu Kyi and her colleagues in the pro-democracy movement, including representatives of Burma's numerous ethnic minorities. The American people stand with the people of Burma in a common determination to see decent democratic governance and national reconciliation in Burma.

I urge support for the resolution.

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, too often in this world, evil is not called evil. In our rush not to

offend others or to avoid making judgments, speech is couched in euphemisms or soft tones. Evil is ignored or glossed over.

Last year, the United States saw evil in Burma. And last year, the United States had the courage and conviction to call evil by its name. Last year, the United States Congress and President Bush imposed harsh sanctions on the military dictatorship controlling Burma.

Some may say that the term evil is too harsh or that it is offensive, but in my estimation, there is no other word for what is happening right now in Burma. Men are routinely pressed into forced labor for the military. Women are raped and beaten. Countless children have been orphaned. Villages suspected of resistance are burned. Food is confiscated or destroyed. Hundreds of thousands of people are displaced in Burma and surrounding countries. And anyone can be thrown into prison at anytime for the slightest infraction or for no reason at all.

Last week, we heard a lot about freedom. We heard that millions of people are now living in freedom because the Cold War came to an end because of the unrelenting pressure Ronald Reagan brought to bear against the Soviet Union. It is easy to think that because the Cold War is over, freedom has completely triumphed. Sadly, that is not the case. Millions of people, including the people of Burma, still live under the lash of dictatorship.

In 2003, the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act passed this House by a vote of 418–2. Four hundred eighteen Members recognized the junta's evil deeds and voted to isolate Burma from the outside world. This Congress and this Administration realize that putting pressure on the dictatorship will hasten its demise almost as certainly as did American pressure on the Soviet Union.

The United States was once nobly described as a shining city on a hill. Indeed, millions of people around the world look to the United States as a beacon of liberty. We must shine our light of freedom wherever freedom and justice are denied and wherever evil is present.

Today, we have the opportunity to send a message to the people of Burma and to the rest of the world. By extending the sanctions the United States imposed on Burma last year, we declare there is still evil in Burma, and it is unacceptable.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.J. Res. 97.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 97.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of House Joint Resolution 97.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

□ 1515

STROKE TREATMENT AND ONGOING PREVENTION ACT

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3658) to amend the Public Health Service Act to strengthen education, prevention, and treatment programs relating to stroke, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3658

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Stroke Treatment and Ongoing Prevention Act".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT REGARDING STROKE PROGRAMS.

(a) STROKE EDUCATION AND INFORMATION PROGRAMS.—Title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 241 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"PART R—STROKE EDUCATION, INFORMATION, AND DATA COLLECTION PROGRAMS**"SEC. 399AA. STROKE PREVENTION AND EDUCATION CAMPAIGN.**

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out an education and information campaign to promote stroke prevention and increase the number of stroke patients who seek immediate treatment.

"(b) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—In implementing the education and information campaign under subsection (a), the Secretary may—

"(1) make public service announcements about the warning signs of stroke and the importance of treating stroke as a medical emergency;

"(2) provide education regarding ways to prevent stroke and the effectiveness of stroke treatment; and

"(3) carry out other activities that the Secretary determines will promote prevention practices among the general public and increase the number of stroke patients who seek immediate care.

"(c) MEASUREMENTS.—In implementing the education and information campaign under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

"(1) measure public awareness before the start of the campaign to provide baseline data that will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of the public awareness efforts;

"(2) establish quantitative benchmarks to measure the impact of the campaign over time; and

"(3) measure the impact of the campaign not less than once every 2 years or, if determined appropriate by the Secretary, at shorter intervals.

"(d) NO DUPLICATION OF EFFORT.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall avoid duplicating existing stroke education efforts by other Federal Government agencies.

"(e) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary may consult with organiza-

tions and individuals with expertise in stroke prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation.

"SEC. 399BB. PAUL COVERDELL NATIONAL ACUTE STROKE REGISTRY AND CLEARINGHOUSE.

"The Secretary, acting through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall maintain the Paul Coverdell National Acute Stroke Registry and Clearinghouse by—

"(1) continuing to develop and collect specific data points and appropriate benchmarks for analyzing care of acute stroke patients;

"(2) collecting, compiling, and disseminating information on the achievements of, and problems experienced by, State and local agencies and private entities in developing and implementing emergency medical systems and hospital-based quality of care interventions; and

"(3) carrying out any other activities the Secretary determines to be useful to maintain the Paul Coverdell National Acute Stroke Registry and Clearinghouse to reflect the latest advances in all forms of stroke care.

"SEC. 399CC. STROKE DEFINITION.

"For purposes of this part, the term 'stroke' means a 'brain attack' in which blood flow to the brain is interrupted or in which a blood vessel or aneurysm in the brain breaks or ruptures.

"SEC. 399DD. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

"There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this part \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2009."

(b) EMERGENCY MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.—Section 1251 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300d–51) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 1251. MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN ADVANCED STROKE AND TRAUMATIC INJURY TREATMENT AND PREVENTION.

"(a) RESIDENCY AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL TRAINING.—The Secretary may make grants to public and nonprofit entities for the purpose of planning, developing, and enhancing approved residency training programs and other professional training for appropriate health professionals in emergency medicine, including emergency medical services professionals, to improve stroke and traumatic injury prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation.

"(b) CONTINUING EDUCATION ON STROKE AND TRAUMATIC INJURY.—

"(1) GRANTS.—The Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, may make grants to qualified entities for the development and implementation of education programs for appropriate health care professionals in the use of newly developed diagnostic approaches, technologies, and therapies for health professionals involved in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of stroke or traumatic injury.

"(2) DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS.—In awarding grants under this subsection, the Secretary shall give preference to qualified entities that will train health care professionals that serve areas with a significant incidence of stroke or traumatic injuries.

"(3) APPLICATION.—A qualified entity desiring a grant under this subsection shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including a plan for the rigorous evaluation of activities carried out with amounts received under the grant.

"(4) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection:

"(A) The term 'qualified entity' means a consortium of public and private entities, such as universities, academic medical centers, hospitals, and emergency medical systems that are coordinating education activities among providers serving in a variety of medical settings.

"(B) The term 'stroke' means a 'brain attack' in which blood flow to the brain is interrupted

or in which a blood vessel or aneurysm in the brain breaks or ruptures.

"(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the allocation of grants under this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report on the results of activities carried out with amounts received under this section.

"(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$4,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2009. The Secretary shall equitably allocate the funds authorized to be appropriated under this section between efforts to address stroke and efforts to address traumatic injury."

SEC. 3. PILOT PROJECT ON TELEHEALTH STROKE TREATMENT.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Part D of title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 330L the following:

"SEC. 330M. TELEHEALTH STROKE TREATMENT GRANT PROGRAM.

"(a) GRANTS.—The Secretary may make grants to States, and to consortia of public and private entities located in any State that is not a grantee under this section, to conduct a 5-year pilot project over the period of fiscal years 2005 through 2009 to improve stroke patient outcomes by coordinating health care delivery through telehealth networks.

"(b) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary shall administer this section through the Director of the Office for the Advancement of Telehealth.

"(c) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this section, for the purpose of better coordinating program activities, the Secretary shall consult with—

"(1) officials responsible for other Federal programs involving stroke research and care, including such programs established by the Stroke Treatment and Ongoing Prevention Act; and

"(2) organizations and individuals with expertise in stroke prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation.

"(d) USE OF FUNDS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not make a grant to a State or a consortium under this section unless the State or consortium agrees to use the grant for the purpose of—

"(A) identifying entities with expertise in the delivery of high-quality stroke prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation;

"(B) working with those entities to establish or improve telehealth networks to provide stroke treatment assistance and resources to health care professionals, hospitals, and other individuals and entities that serve stroke patients;

"(C) informing emergency medical systems of the location of entities identified under subparagraph (A) to facilitate the appropriate transport of individuals with stroke symptoms;

"(D) establishing networks to coordinate collaborative activities for stroke prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation;

"(E) improving access to high-quality stroke care, especially for populations with a shortage of stroke care specialists and populations with a high incidence of stroke; and

"(F) conducting ongoing performance and quality evaluations to identify collaborative activities that improve clinical outcomes for stroke patients.

"(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSORTIUM.—The Secretary may not make a grant to a State under this section unless the State agrees to establish a consortium of public and private entities, including universities and academic medical centers, to carry out the activities described in paragraph (1).

"(3) PROHIBITION.—The Secretary may not make a grant under this section to a State that has an existing telehealth network that is or may be used for improving stroke prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation, or to a

consortium located in such a State, unless the State or consortium agrees that—

“(A) the State or consortium will use an existing telehealth network to achieve the purpose of the grant; and

“(B) the State or consortium will not establish a separate network for such purpose.

“(e) **PRIORITY.**—In selecting grant recipients under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to any applicant that submits a plan demonstrating how the applicant, and where applicable the members of the consortium described in subsection (d)(2), will use the grant to improve access to high-quality stroke care for populations with shortages of stroke-care specialists and populations with a high incidence of stroke.

“(f) **GRANT PERIOD.**—The Secretary may not award a grant to a State or a consortium under this section for any period that—

“(1) is greater than 3 years; or

“(2) extends beyond the end of fiscal year 2009.

“(g) **RESTRICTION ON NUMBER OF GRANTS.**—In carrying out the 5-year pilot project under this section, the Secretary may not award more than 7 grants.

“(h) **APPLICATION.**—To seek a grant under this section, a State or a consortium of public and private entities shall submit an application to the Secretary in such form, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require. At a minimum, the Secretary shall require each such application to outline how the State or consortium will establish baseline measures and benchmarks to evaluate program outcomes.

“(i) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term ‘stroke’ means a ‘brain attack’ in which blood flow to the brain is interrupted or in which a blood vessel or aneurysm in the brain breaks or ruptures.

“(j) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2005, \$13,000,000 for fiscal year 2006, \$15,000,000 for fiscal year 2007, \$8,000,000 for fiscal year 2008, and \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2009.”

(b) **STUDY; REPORTS.**—

(1) **FINAL REPORT.**—Not later than March 31, 2010, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall conduct a study of the results of the telehealth stroke treatment grant program under section 330M of the Public Health Service Act (added by subsection (a)) and submit to the Congress a report on such results that includes the following:

(A) An evaluation of the grant program outcomes, including quantitative analysis of baseline and benchmark measures.

(B) Recommendations on how to promote stroke networks in ways that improve access to clinical care in rural and urban areas and reduce the incidence of stroke and the debilitating and costly complications resulting from stroke.

(C) Recommendations on whether similar telehealth grant programs could be used to improve patient outcomes in other public health areas.

(2) **INTERIM REPORTS.**—The Secretary of Health and Human Services may provide interim reports to the Congress on the telehealth stroke treatment grant program under section 330M of the Public Health Service Act (added by subsection (a)) at such intervals as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

SEC. 4. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish Federal standards for the treatment of patients or the licensure of health care professionals.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PICKERING) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PICKERING).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Mississippi?

There was no objection.

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As one of the sponsors of this bill and serving on the Committee on Energy and Commerce, I would like to begin by commending all those who have worked to bring this legislation to the House floor. I would like to extend a special thanks to my colleague and sponsor, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS), as well as Committee on Energy and Commerce Chairman, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON); subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS); subcommittee ranking member, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), and committee staff for their tireless efforts to move this important legislation.

As a personal point of privilege, I would like to commend my staff Mary Mills Lane and before her Jason Dedwylder for their long and good work on this legislation.

Despite significant advances in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention, stroke remains the Nation's No. 3 killer and a leading cause of long-term disability. According to the American Heart Association, on the average every 45 seconds someone in the United States has a stroke. Every year 700,000 Americans suffer a stroke, and 164,000 lose their lives. My home State of Mississippi ranks seventh highest in terms of death rates from stroke. Approximately 2,000 individuals in Mississippi alone lost their lives to stroke in 2000.

Not only are individuals losing their lives, but today 4.7 million Americans are stroke survivors, and as many as 30 percent are permanently disabled, requiring extensive and costly care. It is expected that strokes will cost the Nation \$53.6 billion in 2004, including \$33 billion in direct costs and \$20.6 billion in indirect costs.

Prompt treatment of patients experiencing stroke can save lives and reduce disability, yet thousands of stroke patients do not receive the care they need.

Additionally, most Americans cannot identify the signs of stroke, and even emergency medical technicians are often not taught how to recognize and manage the symptoms. Even in hospitals, stroke patients often do not receive the care that could save their lives.

The STOP Stroke Act is the first step to removing these barriers to quality stroke care in order to save lives and reduce disability.

This legislation addresses a number of significant barriers to quality stroke care, including low public awareness, lack of necessary infrastructure, low awareness among medical professionals and a lack of adequate data collection.

This bill authorizes a national public information campaign to educate the public about stroke, how to reduce risk, recognize the warning signs and seek emergency treatment as soon as symptoms occur.

This legislation also authorizes the Paul Coverdell Stroke Registry and Clearinghouse to collect data about the care of acute stroke patients and foster the development of effective stroke care systems.

The clearinghouse will serve as a resource for States seeking to design and implement their own stroke care. It will help build systems to collect, analyze and disseminate information and will build on the efforts of other communities to establish similar systems.

The STOP Stroke Act will provide grants for public and nonprofit entities to develop and implement continuing education programs and the use of new diagnostic approaches, technologies and therapies for the prevention and treatment of stroke.

Finally, this bill authorizes a telehealth stroke treatment pilot project to support States' efforts to develop comprehensive networks to improve stroke prevention, treatment and rehabilitation. These grants will allow States to identify stroke centers, improve communications networks that bring stroke care to rural areas and decrease response time.

The time has come for a bill to stop the incidences, the high rates of stroke. This bill is past due. We are in a situation where stroke rates are on the rise, and we must now act to address the issues that are going to help us match resources with the growing need to prevent and treat this devastating illness.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate to properly move similar legislation that previously passed by unanimous consent in the last Congress. I urge my House colleagues to vote for this bill.

And as a point of personal privilege, I want to commend all of this work, my own work, to the memory of my grandparents, my mama and papa, my papa suffered from a stroke, and all those family members all across this country who have lost someone to a stroke and have watched their family care and love those who have been affected. I hope that this can help provide the resources and the information as all the country comes together to help those, first to prevent stroke and to care for those who have been the victims of stroke.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to myself.

Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by thanking my colleagues, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS),

who is a registered nurse and who has been a leader in this body in health care, and the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PICKERING). Because of their leadership, we have the opportunity to pass legislation today that can prevent disability and save lives.

I would like to commend majority counsel Cheryl Jaeger for her good work and minority counsel John Ford for his good work on this bill.

Stroke, as we know, is the third leading cause of death in this country and a major cause of severe, long-term disability. Though stroke affects all kinds of Americans, stroke death rates are substantially higher for African Americans. An effective response to stroke, therefore, is an important opportunity to address the troubling health disparities that we see in this country all too often. In all, about 700,000 Americans will have a stroke this year. That is one every 45 seconds. A stroke will kill one American every 3 minutes.

Perhaps the most disheartening fact, however, is that this suffering is largely preventable. Early detection drastically reduces the harm from stroke. The risk of paralysis and other disabilities is reduced by 30 percent if stroke victims are detected within the first 3 hours. Unfortunately, only 10 percent of stroke victims are treated in this time period in part because only one of five Americans can readily identify the symptoms of a stroke.

In a health care system as sophisticated as ours, as high tech as ours, this is certainly simply not acceptable. The Stroke Treatment and Ongoing Protection Act will provide the public with the information necessary to recognize early signs of stroke and drastically reduce the chance of disability or death. The bill will educate medical personnel to help them improve their diagnosis and treatment of stroke victims, and it will help States develop a network to improve stroke prevention and treatment and rehabilitation.

EMTs, doctors and nurses have helped close to 5 million people survive a stroke. A strong network of advocates led by the American Heart Association has helped millions more take the steps necessary to reduce their risk of having a stroke. The Stroke Treatment and Ongoing Prevention Act would strengthen these efforts and help us fight this debilitating and deadly disease.

I urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BURNS).

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3658, the Stroke Treatment and Ongoing Prevention Act of 2004. Thousands of American families have had their lives touched by the tragedy of stroke. In July of 2000, the entire State of Georgia was affected when we lost our senior Senator John Coverdell.

According to the American Heart Association, another American experiences a stroke every 45 seconds. Every 45 seconds another American faces the possibility of mental impairment, paralysis or death. The STOP Stroke Act will establish a campaign to teach Americans about the risk and signs of stroke so that more incidents may be prevented and so that more victims may receive important and timely care. This bill also recognizes the importance of our research community and directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to assist them in their work by maintaining the Paul Coverdell National Acute Registry and Clearinghouse with information and statistics useful to both research and caregivers.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to offer my support for H.R. 3658 and I look forward to casting my vote in favor of this legislation and of the stroke victims both in Georgia and throughout the United States.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS).

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that the House of Representatives is considering the Stroke Treatment and Ongoing Prevention Act, or STOP Stroke Act, today. As my colleague from Mississippi has just said, this bill is past due and it is time for us to act today.

Right now stroke is the number three killer in the United States and it is one of the major causes of serious disability. Each year more than 700,000 Americans suffer from a stroke, as has been said, and 170,000 people die from a stroke every year.

Of national significance, nearly 4½ million Americans are stroke survivors today, at tremendous cost personally to families, to all of us. And as has been said, this is a very personal story. Whether it is Senator Coverdell or my father-in-law, each of us is involved in the story of stroke. But what makes this so heartbreaking is the fact that many of these deaths and disabilities can be prevented with the treatments available today.

As cochair of the Congressional Heart and Stroke Coalition, it is our goal to improve that disparity. If a stroke victim can get quick treatment within 2 to 3 hours of the onset of symptoms lives can be saved and many disabilities can be avoided or curtailed. But fewer than 3 percent of stroke patients now receive the state of the art medication, and only one in 10 stroke patients are monitored by a neurologist. Sadly and tragically, most Americans cannot today identify the signs of strokes, and many emergency room technicians are not trained to recognize and manage its symptoms. That is why I am proud to introduce the Stroke Treatment and Ongoing Prevention Act, or STOP Stroke Act, and I am so pleased to work with my col-

league, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PICKERING).

I am very proud also to be associated with the work of Senator COCHRAN, Senator FRIST and Senator KENNEDY on this important legislation. The bill creates a stroke prevention and education campaign. This campaign, much needed, will be a national multi-media awareness effort to promote stroke prevention and encourage stroke patients to seek immediate treatment. We will also establish the Paul Coverdell Stroke Registry and Clearinghouse in the law, and this program will collect data about care for stroke patients and foster the development of effective stroke care systems, streamlining the response time and the response efforts.

The bill provides for medical professional development to make sure our health care providers are up to date on the newest and best treatments and technologies.

And finally, the STOP Stroke Act creates a pilot program to provide grants for Statewide stroke care systems, so that States can develop and implement stroke prevention, treatment and rehabilitation systems. The various States then would be able to use these resources to improve telehealth programs, train emergency medical services personnel, identify stroke care, treatment, and rehabilitation centers and create a system to set standards of care for stroke patients and develop and evaluate their stroke care systems.

Passing this bill will be a great step forward for stroke care in this country. It has the potential to help millions of Americans avoid stroke and/or better cope with its effects. It is a good example of what bipartisan negotiation and compromise can accomplish.

I want to take a moment to thank the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PICKERING) for this leadership on this issue. He and his staff have been strong partners in this effort. I want to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON) for his early support, as well as the former chairman, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN), the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and the ranking members, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) for all their efforts on this bill's behalf.

I make a point of thanking our counsel Cheryl Jaeger on the gentleman from Texas' (Mr. BARTON) staff and counsel John Ford on the gentleman from Michigan's (Mr. DINGELL) staff, and my own staff member Jeremy Sharp for the many hours of work put into this effort.

It is very important I believe to thank the American Heart Association, the American Stroke Association and the many members of the STOP Stroke Act Coalition for their efforts to get this passed. The members are as follows:

American Academy of Neurology
American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

American Association of Neurological Surgeons
 American College of Chest Physicians
 American College of Emergency Physicians
 American College of Preventive Medicine
 American College of Radiology
 American Heart Association/American Stroke Association
 American Occupational Therapy Association
 American Physical Therapy Association
 American Society of Interventional and Therapeutic Neuroradiology
 American Society of Neuroradiology
 Association of American Medical Colleges
 Association of State and Territorial Chronic Disease Program Directors
 Association of State and Territorial Directors of Health
 Promotion and Public Health Education
 Boston Scientific
 Brain Injury Association, Inc.
 Congress of Neurological Surgeons
 Emergency Nurses Association
 Genentech, Inc.
 Johnson & Johnson
 National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems
 National Stroke Association
 North American Society of Pacing and Electrophysiology
 Partnership for Prevention
 Society of Cardiovascular and Interventional Radiology
 Stroke Belt Consortium

It underscores for us all that there is cooperation within the constituency of health care providers and now it is time for us to become partners in this effort.

I urge my colleagues to pass this bill and move this process forward.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3658, the "Stroke Treatment and Ongoing Prevention Act." Stroke is the third leading cause of death in America and is a major contributor to long-term disability. Timely diagnosis and treatment of strokes is crucial. Outcomes for those who receive care within the first few hours of a stroke at facilities with highly trained health care professionals are dramatically improved over those who receive treatment later. According to the American Heart Association, approximately 700,000 Americans suffer from stroke each year and 170,000 die from stroke.

This bill will help reduce premature death and disability from stroke in several ways. First, H.R. 3658 will authorize stroke prevention and treatment education and information programs for the public and health professionals. Second, this bill strengthens and improves the Paul Coverdell National Acute Registry and Clearinghouse, an important source of information on stroke incidence and outcomes. Third, H.R. 3658 authorizes grants for residence training programs and appropriate training of other health professions in emergency medicine to improve stroke and traumatic injury prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation. Finally, this bill establishes a five-year pilot project aimed at improving stroke patient outcomes by coordinating health care delivery through telehealth networks.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my distinguished colleagues, Chairman BARTON, Chairman BILIRAKIS, and Subcommittee on Health Ranking Member BROWN for their leadership on this matter. I particularly want to thank Representative CAPPS for her hard work and dedication to the issue of stroke prevention and treatment. Representative CAPPS has once again demonstrated her effectiveness

and tireless effort on behalf of the health of our nation. She is a thoughtful legislator and skillful negotiator and I give her much of the credit for making today possible.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. PICKERING) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3658, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1530

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS WITH RESPECT TO NEED TO PROVIDE PROSTATE CANCER PATIENTS WITH MEANINGFUL ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON TREATMENT OPTIONS

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 669) expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the need to provide prostate cancer patients with meaningful access to information on treatment options, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 669

Whereas, in 2004, it is estimated that approximately 230,000 new cases of prostate cancer will be diagnosed in the United States, and nearly 30,000 men in the United States will die from prostate cancer;

Whereas prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in men in the United States;

Whereas over \$4,700,000,000 is spent annually in the United States in direct treatment costs for prostate cancer;

Whereas African American men are diagnosed with and die from prostate cancer more frequently than men of other ethnic backgrounds;

Whereas increased education among health care providers and patients regarding the need for prostate cancer screening tests has resulted in the diagnosis of approximately 86 percent of prostate cancer patients before the cancerous cells have spread appreciably beyond the prostate gland, thereby enhancing the odds of successful treatment;

Whereas the potential complication rates for significant side effects vary among the most common forms of treatment for prostate cancer;

Whereas prostate cancer often strikes elderly people in the United States, highlighting the importance of balancing the potential benefits and risks of various treatments on an individual basis; and

Whereas Congress as a whole, and Members of Congress as individuals, are in unique positions to support the fight against prostate cancer, to help raise public awareness about the need to make screening tests available to all people at risk for prostate cancer, and to

provide prostate cancer patients with adequate information to assess the relative benefits and risks of treatment options: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(1) national and community organizations and health care providers have played a commendable role in supplying information concerning the importance of screening for prostate cancer and the treatment options for patients with prostate cancer; and

(2) the Federal Government and the States should ensure that health care providers supply prostate cancer patients with appropriate information and any other tools necessary for prostate cancer patients to receive readily understandable descriptions of the advantages, disadvantages, benefits, and risks of all medically efficacious treatments for prostate cancer, including brachytherapy, hormonal treatments, external beam radiation, chemotherapy, surgery, and watchful waiting.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 669.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As we celebrate the 10th anniversary this week of the National Men's Health Week, few topics are more germane than prostate cancer.

This year, 2004, the American Cancer Society estimates that approximately 230,000 new cases of prostate cancer will be diagnosed in our country and that nearly 30,000 men in this country will die from prostate cancer. It is, in fact, the second leading cause of cancer death in men in the United States.

About 16 percent of American men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer during their lifetime, 8 percent will develop significant symptoms, and 3 percent will die of the disease. Over \$4.7 billion is spent annually in the United States in direct treatment costs for prostate cancer. African American men are diagnosed with and die from prostate cancer more frequently than men of other ethnic backgrounds.

Increased education among health care providers and patients regarding the need for prostate cancer screening tests has resulted in the diagnosis of approximately 86 percent of prostate cancer patients before the cancerous cells have spread appreciably beyond the prostate gland, thereby enhancing the odds of successful treatment.

The potential complication rates for significant side effects vary among the most common form of treatment for

prostate cancer, however. It is a disease that strikes elderly people in the United States, which also highlights the importance of balancing the potential benefits and risks of various treatments on an individual basis.

Congress as a whole, and Members of Congress as individuals, are in unique positions to support the fight against prostate cancer to help raise public awareness about the need to make screening tests available to all people at risk and to provide prostate cancer patients with adequate information to assess the relative benefits and risks of their treatment options.

This resolution does several things. First of all, it recognizes that national and community organizations and health care providers have played a commendable role in supplying information concerning the importance of screening prostate cancer and the treatment options for patients with prostate cancer; and the Federal Government and States should ensure that health care providers supply prostate cancer patients with appropriate information and any other tools necessary for them to receive readily understandable descriptions of the advantages, disadvantages, benefits, and risks of all medically efficacious treatments for prostate cancer, including brachytherapy, hormonal treatments, external beam radiation, chemotherapy, surgery and, in some cases, simply watchful waiting.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

I would like to commend my colleague, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL), and my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS), and other Members who helped put this resolution together.

One in six American men will develop prostate cancer in their lifetimes, one in six. Only skin cancer is more prevalent in our population. Approximately 30,000 men will die from prostate cancer this year. Early detection can obviously reduce that number. In fact, early detection is crucial in raising awareness about this disease as the best way to promote regular testing.

A friend of mine in Columbus recently learned that lesson. He had a regular test, early detection, successful surgery and back to his normal active life.

This resolution says Congress can play a unique role in raising public awareness about prostate cancer. We can and we should. There have been exciting developments recently in prostate cancer prevention. A class of drugs called statins hold promise for keeping this form of cancer at bay.

Each year, I join the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING), my friend, on a letter signed by many Members on both sides of the aisle urging the Committee on Appropriations to provide ample funding for prostate cancer research. That is one piece of the puzzle; public awareness is the other.

We have a ready tool in the fight against prostate cancer. That tool is information.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this resolution and continue to help get the word out.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BURNS), my colleague.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 669 and the families and victims of prostate cancer throughout our Nation.

Almost 30,000 Americans died of prostate cancer last year; and Mr. Speaker, that is far too many families who are left behind, losing the company of their loved ones. When it is identified early, like many cancers, prostate cancer can be treated and treated effectively. That is why it is crucial for all Americans to receive periodic screenings.

None of us are in a hurry to leave this world. Our time with our children and grandchildren is precious, and we should all protect ourselves in every manner possible. Our health care providers in America are performing an important service by advocating periodic screenings for this deadly disease.

I am proud to join my colleague, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL), and to offer my thanks to these men and women, as well as those who assist all Americans, in recognizing the challenges of prostate cancer. As a Congress, we must pass this resolution to reaffirm Congress' commitment to supporting their efforts.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

There are many who have played an important role in making the public aware of the ability to treat and to deal with prostate cancer. One of those is a constituent of mine, Theragenix, that is located in my district, manufacturer of a seed that is used in brachytherapy. They, along with many other organizations who provide other treatments, have been very instrumental in passing this resolution to the floor today to get it available to the public for information and also to ensure that adequate reimbursements are made to the providers so that when a treatment is selected by a patient and by a physician that adequate reimbursement will be made to make that treatment available.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 669. The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of

those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. DEAL of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PROVIDING FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF HEADQUARTERS FOR DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4322) to provide for the establishment of the headquarters for the Department of Homeland Security in the District of Columbia, to require the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over the Nebraska Avenue Naval Complex in the District of Columbia to serve as the location for the headquarters, to facilitate the acquisition by the Department of the Navy of suitable replacement facilities, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4322

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. TRANSFER OF NEBRASKA AVENUE NAVAL COMPLEX, DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

(a) TRANSFER REQUIRED.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the Secretary of the Navy shall transfer the parcel of Department of the Navy real property in the District of Columbia known as the Nebraska Avenue Complex to the jurisdiction, custody, and control of the Administrator of General Services for the purpose of permitting the Administrator to use the Complex to accommodate the Department of Homeland Security. The Complex shall be transferred in its existing condition.

(b) AUTHORITY TO RETAIN MILITARY FAMILY HOUSING.—At the option of the Secretary of the Navy, the Secretary may retain jurisdiction, custody, and control over that portion of the Complex that, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, is being used to provide Navy family housing.

(c) TIME FOR TRANSFER AND RELOCATION OF NAVY ACTIVITIES.—Not later than nine months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Navy shall—

(1) complete the transfer of the Complex to the Administrator of General Services under subsection (a); and

(2) relocate Department of the Navy activities to the Complex to other locations.

(d) PAYMENT OF INITIAL RELOCATION COSTS.—

(1) PAYMENT RESPONSIBILITY.—Subject to the availability of appropriations for this purpose, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security shall be responsible for the payment of—

(A) all reasonable costs, including costs to move furnishings and equipment, related to the initial relocation of Department of the Navy activities from the Nebraska Avenue Complex; and

(B) all reasonable costs incident to the initial occupancy by such activities of interim leased space, including rental costs for the first year.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For purposes of carrying out paragraph (1),

there is authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Homeland Security such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2005 through 2007.

(e) PAYMENT OF LONG-TERM RELOCATION COSTS.—

(1) SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING PAYMENT.—It is the sense of the Congress that the Secretary of the Navy should receive, from Federal agencies other than the Department of Defense, funds authorized and appropriated for the purpose of covering all reasonable costs, not paid under subsection (d), that are incurred or will be incurred by the Secretary to permanently relocate Department of the Navy activities from the Complex under subsection (c)(2).

(2) SUBMISSION OF COST ESTIMATES.—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Navy shall submit to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Congress an initial estimate of the amounts that will be necessary to cover the costs to permanently relocate Department of the Navy activities from the portion of the Complex to be transferred under subsection (a). The Secretary shall include in the estimate anticipated land acquisition and construction costs. The Secretary shall revise the estimate as necessary whenever information regarding the actual costs for the relocation is obtained.

(f) TREATMENT OF FUNDS.—(1) Funds received by the Secretary of the Navy, from sources outside the Department of Defense, to relocate Department of the Navy activities from the Complex shall be used to pay the costs incurred by the Secretary to permanently relocate Department of the Navy activities from the Complex. A military construction project carried out using such funds is deemed to be an authorized military construction project for purposes of section 2802 of title 10, United States Code. Section 2822 of such title shall continue to apply to any military family housing unit proposed to be constructed or acquired using such funds.

(2) When a decision is made to carry out a military construction project using such funds, the Secretary of the Navy shall notify Congress in writing of that decision, including the justification for the project and the current estimate of the cost of the project. The project may then be carried out only after the end of the 21-day period beginning on the date the notification is received by Congress or, if earlier, the end of the 14-day period beginning on the date on which a copy of the notification is provided in an electronic medium pursuant to section 480 of title 10, United States Code.

(g) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO RECEIVE SUFFICIENT FUNDS FOR RELOCATION COSTS.—

(1) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—At the end of the five-year period beginning on the date on which the transfer of the Complex is to be completed under subsection (c)(1), the Secretary of the Navy shall submit to Congress a report—

(A) specifying the total amount needed to cover both the initial and permanent costs of relocating Department of the Navy activities from the portion of the Complex transferred under subsection (a);

(B) specifying the total amount of the initial relocation costs paid by the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security under subsection (d); and

(C) specifying the total amount of appropriated funds received by the Secretary of the Navy, from sources outside the Department of Defense, to cover the permanent relocation costs.

(2) ROLE OF OMB.—The Secretary of the Navy shall obtain the assistance and concurrence of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget in determining the

total amount needed to cover both the initial and permanent costs of relocating Department of the Navy activities from the portion of the Complex transferred under subsection (a), as required by paragraph (1)(A).

(3) CERTIFICATION REGARDING RELOCATION COSTS.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the report under paragraph (1) is required to be submitted to Congress, the President shall certify to Congress whether the amounts specified in the report pursuant to subparagraphs (B) and (C) of such paragraph are sufficient to cover both the initial and permanent costs of relocating Department of the Navy activities from the portion of the Complex transferred under subsection (a). The President shall make this certification only after consultation with the Chairmen and ranking minority members of the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Chairmen and ranking minority members of the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(4) RESTORATION OF COMPLEX TO NAVY.—If the President certifies under paragraph (3) that amounts referred to in subparagraphs (B) and (C) of paragraph (1) are insufficient to cover Navy relocation costs, the Administrator of General Services, at the request of the Secretary of the Navy, shall restore the Complex to the jurisdiction, custody, and control of the Secretary of the Navy.

(5) NAVY SALE OF COMPLEX.—If the Complex is restored to the Secretary of the Navy, the Secretary shall convey the Complex by competitive sale. Amounts received by the United States as consideration from any sale under this paragraph shall be deposited in the special account in the Treasury established pursuant to paragraph (5) of section 572(b) of title 40, United States Code, and shall be available for use as provided in subparagraph (B)(i) of such paragraph.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 4322, the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this March the Department of Homeland Security celebrated its first anniversary in its short existence. DHS has been a leader in the effort to secure America, prevent and deter terrorist attacks, and protect against and respond to threats against the Nation.

While DHS has successfully integrated 22 government agencies into the homeland security mission, it still does not have a centralized headquarters location. The longer that DHS operates without such a centralized location, the longer it will be handicapped by the challenges of running an organization whose parts are scattered throughout the region.

H.R. 4322 addresses this shortcoming by authorizing the Department of the Navy to transfer jurisdiction, custody, and control over more than 30 acres in northwest Washington, known as the Nebraska Avenue Complex, to the General Services Administration. This property will be used as the Department of Homeland Security headquarters.

This bill was crafted at the request of the administration and is cosponsored by the gentleman from California (Mr. COX), the chairman of the Select Committee on Homeland Security. The House Committee on Armed Services reported the base text of this bill without objection on a voice vote.

The amended version before the House today contains a number of technical changes to the bill reported by the committee, most notably the addition of "custody and control" to the transfer language, but the substance of the bill remains the same. In sum, it provides a home for the headquarters of DHS for the foreseeable future.

In just 1 year, DHS has proven its value to homeland security. I urge my colleagues to help make DHS an even more effective organization by supporting H.R. 4322 today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Homeland Security has understandably operated without a consolidated headquarters since its inception. The bill before us will convey property from the Navy to the GSA to help consolidate headquarters for the Department.

Given the critical nature of the Department's mission, we must allow Secretary Ridge to operate the Department as efficiently as possible. This bill is a significant step in the growth of this new agency; and that is why the Committee on Armed Services, in a bipartisan way, supports relocating the Navy from its Nebraska Avenue Complex in northwest Washington, D.C., to accommodate the Department of Homeland Security.

We should be under no illusion, however, that the headquarters provided under this bill is a permanent or ideal solution. In fact, some have even questioned whether this is truly a headquarters at all. We are consolidating some of the leadership elements of the departments on one site, but workers will still be spread among more than a dozen buildings. It is not yet clear that the site can fully accommodate the Department's headquarters, in part because the Department is still evolving and is itself a patchwork of agencies. Several of the Department's key agencies will maintain separate headquarters elsewhere. These concerns have led some in Congress to question whether we should even designate the Nebraska Avenue Complex as the headquarters of the Department at all.

I am also aware that the distinguished gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) has concerns with portions of the bill, and she will seek time to speak on this, in particular, the provision that calls for the selling of property if the Navy is not fully reimbursed for the cost of its move. This provision was inserted to help ensure the Navy does not pay a financial penalty to accommodate the Department of Homeland Security, but the potential mandatory sale of 38 acres in the District raises legitimate concerns. We will continue to work with everyone, including the gentlewoman from the District, to address these concerns when we conference with the Senate on this matter.

The bill before us is imperfect. It still needs some work, but a lot of changes have been made to it. In a sense it is a reflection of the nature and the status of the Department of Homeland Security itself. Despite some of these flaws, though, the bill is a step in the right direction, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I do not believe we have anymore speakers. I would thank my colleague, an esteemed member of the committee, for his comments; and I believe he has one more speaker on his side. If he could go ahead and recognize that speaker, then we will close out very quickly.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 6½ minutes to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

□ 1545

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the work of the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER), the chairman of the committee, and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) for bringing this bill to the floor. I support this bill.

I am very pleased that this question has been settled by the commitment of the Department of Homeland Security to make its home in the District of Columbia. It is unthinkable that the Department of Homeland Security of our country should be elsewhere. I commend Secretary Ridge for his personal involvement in this decision. I am a member of both of the committees involved with this issue, the Select Committee on Homeland Security, I am not a member of the Committee on Armed Services, of course, and the Subcommittee on Public Buildings, Economic Development and Emergency Development of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Since the Department was created 2 years ago, I have worked with both the Department of Homeland Security and the General Services Administration to identify suitable space in the District of Columbia to house the new Department. I am delighted that for now, and until the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure reviews and ap-

proves housing plans, which the Department is in the process of drawing, the Department will be housed at the Naval complex on Nebraska Avenue.

The Department has spent considerable time in preparing a housing plan, but it is important to note that this is a department in formation, so the Department itself is having its difficulties thinking about how the Department will look 5 years out, 10 years out; and for that reason we have not held hearings to review the DHS's plan for what security elements will be included in headquarters operations. Members can imagine that they would have to be extraordinary.

My colleagues on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in a bipartisan fashion shared that they all have concerns about the language contained in the title. The language is that this facilitates the establishment of a headquarters complex at the Nebraska Avenue complex. This may seem like a technical matter. I hope it is a technical matter.

We would hope if the director, after drawing his housing plan, were to decide that he wished to be elsewhere, the way in which the GSA operates is it goes and tries to find him space elsewhere. We do not even know how big this Department will be and if it will outgrow the Nebraska headquarters, so the notion that this is the headquarters could be read technically to mean they do not have the authority to move elsewhere.

By way of background, officials from the White House Office of Management and Budget, the Department of Homeland Security, the General Services Administration, and the Navy agreed to a three-step approach whereby: (1) the Nebraska Avenue complex would be transferred to GSA; (2) GSA would lease the space to homeland security; and (3) the Navy would be made whole for the expenses associated with its move from the site.

In fact, in February of this year, these officials met with the transportation committee staff on a bipartisan basis to review the details of this approach. That is the administration and the staff on both sides of the aisle meeting in the same room. The original bill title merely spoke about the use of the property by homeland security, not establishing permanent headquarters. Again, this is a very technical matter, but we have seen how technical matters can throw people off once they want to do something in the Congress. I am not making a major objection, but I want to go on the record to say that if Secretary Ridge says this is a whole lot smaller space than we need, I do not want us to say you are locked in by the language of the title. That is all I am bringing to Members' attention.

The Nebraska Avenue complex is 38 acres in northwest Washington. It contains 33 mostly unconnected buildings, over 1,000 parking spaces, and 556,000 square feet of office space. Many of the

buildings are old, one dating back to 1916, many constructed in the 1920s. The site is not nearly as secure as it has to be for the agency with the highest security mission.

Currently, there are 1,300 personnel at the site, almost evenly split between Navy personnel and DHS personnel. Eventually DHS intends to house 1,986 personnel at the site; at least that is what they think now. Those personnel are now housed in mostly leased space in over 5 million square feet of space in the District and the region.

Given the enormous impact DHS will have on the government's administrative costs, and the impact it will have on the District and the region, more thought and attention should be given to establishing a headquarters in the District of Columbia. I have to assume that the decision of the Secretary would be controlling, it always is, when we look for space for an agency.

The bill also contains a mandatory sale provision of the property in the event the Navy is not fully reimbursed for its moving cost. A sale of such magnitude in the District of Columbia should be consistent with provisions of the Property Act, and not an act conducted solely by the Navy.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and also the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) for their comments. I think we do have 22 agencies coming together in this Homeland Security Department. Obviously it is a major, major challenge to put this team together. We are taking the first step, and that is getting an appropriate area in Washington, D.C. to headquarter this team.

I want to commend Mr. Ridge and Asa Hutchinson and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN), who is helping us on this legislation, and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) for everything she has done.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the House Armed Services Committee for making changes, at the request of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, to H.R. 4322, a bill to transfer the Nebraska Avenue Naval Complex ("Complex") in Washington, DC, to General Service Administration ("GSA") for the purpose of permitting GSA to use the Complex to house the Department of Homeland Security ("DHS"). One important change clarifies that the Department of Navy will transfer the property to the "jurisdiction, custody, and control" of GSA. These terms clarify that GSA will have the same authority over the Complex as it does over other government facilities.

However, I regretfully note that the title of the amended bill includes an error that suggests that the bill is establishing the DHS headquarters. Although the bill title does not have legislative effect, I wish to make clear that this bill does not establish a headquarters

for DHS. It would be premature to do so because there has been no analysis of the pros and cons of the Complex, compared to other possible sites. DHS will continue to be housed in the Complex facility while DHS and GSA prepare a long-term housing plan for the Department of Homeland Security to be submitted for approval to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. Through that process, the Committee will determine an appropriate permanent headquarters location for DHS in the District of Columbia.

While the Nebraska Avenue Naval Complex adequately serves DHS as an interim facility, there are many serious deficiencies associated with its aging buildings and the fact that the facility's 33 buildings are scattered across a 38-acre site. Moreover, building and telecommunication security is not optimal. DHS, GSA, and the Transportation Committee will consider these and other issues as we examine a long-term housing plan and headquarters location for DHS.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4322, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A Bill to provide for the transfer of the Nebraska Avenue Naval Complex in the District of Columbia to facilitate the establishment of the headquarters for the Department of Homeland Security, to provide for the acquisition by Department of the Navy of suitable replacement facilities, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING RAPID ACQUISITION AUTHORITY TO SECRETARY OF DEFENSE TO RESPOND TO COMBAT EMERGENCIES

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4323) to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide rapid acquisition authority to the Secretary of Defense to respond to combat emergencies.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4323

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. RAPID ACQUISITION AUTHORITY TO RESPOND TO COMBAT EMERGENCIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 141 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"§2410p. Rapid acquisition authority to respond to combat emergencies

"(a) RAPID ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Defense may rapidly acquire, in accordance with this section, equipment needed by a combatant commander to elimi-

nate a combat capability deficiency that has resulted in combat fatalities.

"(b) PROCESS FOR RAPID ACQUISITION.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of Defense shall develop a process for the rapid acquisition authority provided by subsection (a) and submit to Congress a detailed explanation of the process, including procedures to be followed in carrying out the process. The process shall provide for the following:

"(1) A requirement that the process may be used only to acquire the minimum amount of equipment needed until the needs of the combatant commander can be fulfilled under existing acquisition statutes, policies, directives, and regulations.

"(2) A goal of awarding a contract for the equipment within 15 days after receipt of a request from a commander.

"(3) In a case in which the equipment cannot be acquired without an extensive delay, a requirement for an interim solution to minimize the combat capability deficiency and combat fatalities until the equipment can be acquired.

"(4) Waiver of the applicability of all policies, directives, and regulations related to—

"(A) the establishment of the requirement for the equipment;

"(B) the research, development, test, and evaluation of the equipment; and

"(C) the solicitation and selection of sources, and the award of the contract, for procurement of the equipment.

"(5) Such other procedures or requirements as the Secretary considers appropriate.

"(c) WAIVER OF CERTAIN STATUTES.—For purposes of exercising the authority provided by subsection (a) with respect to equipment, laws relating to the following shall not apply:

"(A) The establishment of the requirement for the equipment.

"(B) The research, development, test, and evaluation of the equipment.

"(C) The solicitation and selection of sources, and the award of the contract, for procurement of the equipment.

"(d) LIMITATIONS.—The rapid acquisition authority provided by subsection (a) may be used only—

"(1) after the Secretary of Defense, without delegation, determines in writing that there exists a combat capability deficiency that has resulted in combat fatalities; and

"(2) to acquire equipment in an amount aggregating not more than \$100,000,000 during a fiscal year.

"(e) SOURCE OF FUNDS.—For acquisitions under this section to be made during any fiscal year, the Secretary may use any funds made available to the Department of Defense for that fiscal year.

"(f) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS AFTER EACH USE OF AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Defense shall notify the congressional defense committees within 15 days after each use of the authority provided by subsection (a). Each such notice shall identify the equipment to be acquired, the amount to be expended for such acquisition, and the source of funds for such acquisition.

"(g) COMBATANT COMMANDER.—In this section, the term 'combatant commander' means the commander of a unified combatant command with authority for the conduct of operations in a specific area of responsibility or who otherwise has authority to conduct operations at the direction of the President or Secretary of Defense."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

"2410p. Rapid acquisition authority to respond to combat emergencies."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on April 21, 2004, the Committee on Armed Services held an open hearing on the performance of the DOD acquisition process in support of force protection for combat forces, an area which is of extreme importance to all Americans, and especially to our 138,000-plus troops serving in Iraq and the troops who are serving in Afghanistan, and obviously other places around the world where our forces are exposed to terrorist operations and the dangers thereof.

Mr. Speaker, as a result of the testimony that we received in this hearing, it became very clear that under the special circumstances, a change in the acquisition process is required. When a combat commander submits an urgent requirement for equipment that directly relates to preventing combat fatalities, it should not take 6 months to process the commander's request. Because of the oversight role that Congress plays and of course the interest that any administration, the executive branch, has in the acquisition process and the many billions of dollars which flow through the military acquisition process, it is understandable that our acquisition process is rather slow moving.

There are combatant requirements that are set up by the field commanders. Those are scrubbed by a number of requirements, bodies, including the joint chiefs, and the service that attends that particular area. There is a competitive bidding process which carries with it its own appeals process. And as a result of that, when we have a requirement that emanates from field conditions, from a threat that is posed by the enemy on the battlefield, it can take months and months and months before America can respond to that particular challenge.

Right now we are seeing some of that, and we are seeing rapid tactical changes by our adversaries in the field in Afghanistan and Iraq and other places. Very simply, Mr. Speaker, we have to be able to react quickly. We need to be able to come up with not necessarily the 100 percent solution, but maybe the 80 percent solution while we are researching and developing and putting out contracts in this very measured pace that the present acquisition system takes.

So the trust that is given to the people of the United States Congress by the soldiers and families is that we provide them with the necessary systems and equipment to accomplish their mission at any time, anywhere in the world. In keeping this trust, we must be honest in our assessment of whether we are doing everything in our power to not only give them everything that they need to accomplish their mission but we give it to them when they need it, in other words, to be able to act quickly to tactical changes by our adversaries.

H.R. 4323 does that. It says that a combatant commander makes a request from the field and that request emanates from combat fatalities, that the contract award should not take more than 15 days from the time that urgent request is made from the field. This is not intended to knock out the normal acquisition process. It is intended as a quick-start bridge to the normal acquisition process that gets something in the field quickly, whether it is armor for our troops, new types of munitions, new types of surveillance, but gets something in the field quickly that will have an immediate salutary effect on the casualty rate.

As I said before, we do not need to have the 100 percent solution. In many cases, the 80 percent solution would draw down that casualty rate very substantially. This is a very narrow, but important, piece of legislation. It is the right thing to do for our troops.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in favor of H.R. 4323, a bill to provide rapid acquisition authority to the Secretary of Defense to respond to combat emergencies. This is a bill that passed the Committee on Armed Services under the leadership of the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) last month on a voice vote, and I urge its support here.

I might also note that this is just one other example of the laser-like focus of the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) on getting the kinds of tools and resources our troops in the field need. This is one example of that. We have seen it in other subcommittee hearings, the gentleman coming to encourage the Department of Defense to do all it can as quickly as possible to get our troops what they need as quickly as possible.

We all know the importance of body armor and armored vehicles for our soldiers in Iraq. These capabilities save lives, but the Department's acquisition system often is not agile enough to get these capabilities in the field when we need them. In fact, a recent hearing in the Committee on Armed Services showed the acquisition system is in many ways badly broken when it comes to getting our troops what they need when they need it.

This bill will go a long way to meeting the deficiencies in the current sys-

tem. It requires the Secretary of Defense to develop a process within 30 days of enactment for the rapid acquisition of equipment needed by a combatant commander to eliminate a deficiency that has resulted in combat fatalities.

□ 1600

The goal is to award the contract within 15 days or to provide an interim solution if there will be a substantial delay.

To get these capabilities to our troops in the field fast, we allow the department to waive acquisition laws relating to competition. This is something we should take seriously given the problems in Iraq and elsewhere with the lack of competition for contracts. But the authority in this bill is narrowly drawn and is used to prevent the deaths of our soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines. There is congressional notification so that we can watch how the authority is used.

All of us in Congress appreciate the tremendous sacrifice of our servicemen and women. We are providing enormous amounts of money to ensure that they have the best training and equipment they need to complete their missions in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world. This authority will ensure that the department can get that equipment to them as quickly as we should and fix the deficiencies in the acquisition system. We owe that to our troops. I urge support for this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Once again I want to thank the distinguished gentleman from Washington for his leadership on this bill, also, and all the Members, Republican and Democrat, who worked on this. This is truly a bipartisan product.

Mr. Speaker, I include for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD two letters: One is a letter from the Committee on Government Reform waiving jurisdiction over H.R. 4323 and the second letter is my response dated today.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM,
Washington, DC, May 23, 2004.

Hon. DUNCAN HUNTER,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, 2120
Rayburn House Office Building, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN: On May 11, 2004, we introduced H.R. 4323, a bill to provide rapid acquisition authority to the Secretary of Defense to respond to combat emergencies. The Committee on Armed Services ordered this bill reported on May 12. As you know, H.R. 4323 contains provisions within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Government Reform under Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives—specifically, the subsection entitled "Waiver of Certain Statutes."

Because of our desire to move this legislation expeditiously, I will waive consideration of the bill by the Committee on Government Reform. By agreeing to waive this consideration of the bill, the Committee does not waive its jurisdiction over H.R. 4323. In addition, the Committee reserves its authority to seek conferees on any provisions of the bill that are within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be

convened on this legislation. I ask your commitment to support any request for conferees by the Committee on H.R. 4323 or similar legislation.

I request that you include this letter in the Congressional Record during consideration of the legislation on the House floor. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

TOM DAVIS,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
Washington, DC, June 14, 2004.

Hon. THOMAS DAVIS,
Chairman, Committee on Government Reform,
United States House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4323, a bill to provide rapid acquisition authority to the Secretary of Defense to respond to combat emergencies.

I agree that the Committee on Government Reform has valid jurisdictional claims to certain provisions in this important legislation, and I am most appreciative of your decision not to request such a referral in the interest of expediting consideration of the bill. I agree that by foregoing a sequential referral, the Committee on Government Reform is not waiving its jurisdiction. Further, this exchange of letters will be included in the Congressional Record during consideration of the legislation on the House floor.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

DUNCAN HUNTER,
Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank our staff who worked on this bill and who came back from their trips, and almost every member of our committee has been to Iraq, a number of them to Afghanistan. The need to get equipment to the field quickly is a concern that we all have. I want to thank the staff folks also who took these trips and attended many long and weary hours moving around in various forms of transportation in Iraq and Afghanistan, talking with the troops about equipment, about what we do; that is, supplying the tools to get the job done and helping to work up this legislation. Again I thank the gentleman from Washington and our great staff on the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4323.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

HONORING THE MEMBERS OF THE ARMY MOTOR TRANSPORT SERVICE THAT SERVED DURING WORLD WAR II FOR THEIR SERVICE AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE ALLIED ADVANCE FOLLOWING THE D-DAY INVASION

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 439) honoring the members of the Army Motor Transport Service that served during World War II and participated in the trucking operation known as the Red Ball Express for their service and contribution to the Allied advance following the D-Day invasion, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 439

Whereas June 6, 2004, the 60th anniversary of the World War II D-Day invasion of Normandy, France, was observed by Americans with numerous commemorations of the sacrifices of those who fought to preserve the liberty and freedom of the people of the United States;

Whereas commemoration of those sacrifices and the recollection of those who served should include all who served, including those who performed critical logistics functions;

Whereas after the breakout from the beachheads at Normandy following the D-Day landings, Allied forces began a rapid advance across France, with the result that advancing units in many cases began to outrun their supplies of fuel, food, and ammunition;

Whereas on August 21, 1944, in response to the need for resupply of rapidly advancing forces, the Army Motor Transportation Service created a trucking operation called the Red Ball Express which began operations on August 25, 1944;

Whereas the Red Ball Express was a massive convoy effort to speed supplies to the Allied armies advancing across France;

Whereas the convoy system stretched from Normandy to Paris and eventually to the front in the northeastern borderland of France;

Whereas by ensuring that United States and other Allied soldiers were properly resupplied, the Red Ball Express played a major role in the defeat of Nazi Germany;

Whereas members of the Red Ball Express persevered through arduous driving conditions and constant threats of ground and aerial ambushes and performed their duties with precision and efficiency;

Whereas the Red Ball Express was in operation for 82 days and, by the time Red Ball Express operations were concluded in November 1944, Red Ball Express truckers had delivered over 410,000 tons of fuel, ammunition, food, and other essential supplies for the Allied forces to succeed in Europe;

Whereas, during World War II, many commanders believed that African-Americans were not suitable for combat duties and relegated them to service, support, and supply missions;

Whereas the majority of Red Ball Express drivers were African-Americans;

Whereas the success of the Allied advance through France was made possible by the soldiers who drove the supply trucks; and

Whereas the members of the Army Motor Transport Brigade who participated in the Red Ball Express contributed unselfishly to the war effort despite the indignities and double standards that they endured: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress honors the

members of the Army Motor Transport Brigade who during World War II served in the trucking operation known as the Red Ball Express for their service and contribution to the Allied advance following the D-Day invasion in Normandy, France.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, when called to prosecute a war, Americans have always brought a number of important qualities to the war fight. Leadership, courage, teamwork and commitment are but a few examples of the inherent characteristics of American warriors that make us a feared adversary. One only has to look at the record of our forces fighting in Iraq today to understand that our society is still producing men and women who have the "right stuff."

I would suggest that another vital warfighting skill that is a great American strength is the ability to organize. While the present day military can cite many examples of superb achievements in organization, House Concurrent Resolution 439 reminds us of one of the great examples of military organization from World War II, the Red Ball Express, and the great Americans who made it work to defeat Nazi tyranny.

The Red Ball Express was the massive effort to resupply Allied armies as they advanced through Europe after D-Day. Following the breakout from Normandy and the French hedgerow country at the end of July 1944, the First Army under General Bradley and the Third Army under General Patton began to race north and east from St. Lo, France. I might add, Mr. Speaker, that Helen Tracy, who was General Patton's secretary in World War II and was with him when he died in Germany shortly after the war, is a member of my staff and we are very proud of Helen. I hope that she is watching this order with respect to the Red Ball Express.

In this first 100 percent internal combustion engine war, gasoline was the key to continued success on the battlefield. As U.S. and French troops entered Paris at the end of August 1944, the two armies were consuming 800,000 gallons of gasoline each day and had exhausted their reserve supplies.

On August 21, 1944, the Army Motor Transport Service responded to the

challenge with a trucking operation called the Red Ball Express. Within days, over 900 trucks were trekking the 700 miles round trip from St. Lo to Paris and the front lines to the north-east carrying the gasoline, ammunition and other supplies needed to keep the armies on the move. At a speed of 25 miles per hour and distance of 60 yards apart, the trucks moved 24 hours a day along the dedicated route marked with red balls, an old railroad symbol for priority freight. By mid-November, when the operation ended, the Red Ball Express truckers had delivered over 410,000 tons of gas, oil, lubricants, ammunition, food and other essentials using nearly 6,000 vehicles at the peak of operations. This amazing example of organization only became a reality because those 6,000 trucks were driven by men who possessed all those other qualities I mentioned earlier, leadership, courage, teamwork and commitment. Fatigue, weather and enemy ground and air attacks all took their toll, but these men were determined not to let General Patton or General Bradley down. They knew what was at stake and they were in the fight as much as any combat soldier.

Three-quarters of those soldiers driving that hazardous route were African Americans serving in segregated truck companies and quartermaster units. Most of these dedicated men would have preferred to be assigned combat duties, but they were denied that opportunity. Notwithstanding having been dealt a hand not of their own choosing, they accepted the role they had been given and did it with a warrior's spirit, a spirit that we would now recognize as authentically American.

The men that refused to allow the Red Ball Express to fail, and particularly those who were African American, deserve more than a footnote in our military history. The outstanding performance of the African Americans who endured the dangers and hardships of the Red Ball Express was a source of great pride and reflected credit on their race during a time when few chose to acknowledge their immense contribution to the war effort.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) for introducing this resolution. The Red Ball Express was a great moment in our country's military history. I am grateful for the opportunity to speak on the issue.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this concurrent resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 439. Introduced by the gentlewoman from Texas, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, this bill honors the participants of the "Red Ball Express", an Army Motor Transport Brigade that served during World War II.

The Red Ball Express was the code name of a huge convoy operation which began on August 21, 1944, to provide provisions and

supplies to American and Allied soldiers fighting their way across Europe following their successful landing at Normandy.

The convoy system stretched from Normandy to Paris and eventually to the front of the northeastern borderland of France. The 82-day convoy got its name because the route that was used was marked with red balls.

Members of the Army Motor Transportation Brigade that comprised the Red Ball Express were constantly on the road. An average day for these dedicated troops meant 900 fully loaded vehicles driving around the clock. These trucks often traveled during the night in blackout conditions at speeds higher than 25 miles an hour to meet the growing demand for food and supplies, all while facing constant threats from ground ambushes and aerial bombing by the enemy.

What is most remarkable about the Red Ball Express are the soldiers who served in this brigade. Nearly seventy-five percent of the drivers were African-Americans who were denied the opportunity to serve in combat units, and whose families and loved ones were being denied the very freedoms and rights that they were fighting for in Europe.

Yet, these patriotic Americans persevered and succeeded. Many stories were written about their achievements, and their ability to overcome obstacles. These dedicated soldiers truly "shocked and awed" all those who depended upon them. At the peak of the Red Ball Express a round trip took nearly 54 hours and stretched nearly 400 miles to the First army.

When the Red Ball Express ended in mid-November 1944, over 412,000 tons of fuel, ammunition, food and other essential supplies had been delivered to troops on the front line. The success of the American and Allied offensive in France was due to the achievements of these outstanding soldiers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution that honor the members of the Red Ball Express for their service during World War II.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON), the prime sponsor of this resolution.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the leadership of this committee for facilitating the bringing of this resolution to the floor. I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 439 and encourage my colleagues to join me.

June 6 marked the 60th anniversary of D-Day, the Allied invasion of World War II that marked a decisive moment in the defeat of Hitler and Nazi Germany. While we commemorate the valiant heroics and sacrifices of the individuals who fought to preserve our liberty, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a group whose contributions have existed in the shadows since 1944, the Army Motor Transport Service, code named the Red Ball Express. The Red Ball Express, a predominantly African-American outfit, was a massive 82-day convoy effort that supplied the Allied armies moving through Europe. The convoy system expressed from St. Lo in Normandy to Paris and eventually to the front along France's northeastern borderland.

Persevering through arduous driving conditions and ambushes, members of the Red Ball Express performed their duties with utmost precision and efficiency. Their dedication sustained thousands of Allied troops during some of the most difficult periods of World War II. When the program ended in mid-November 1944, Red Ball truckers had delivered nearly 500,000 tons of fuel, lubricants, ammunition, food and other vital essentials needed for Allied success within the European theater.

In spite of the indignities, putdowns and double standards that they endured, members of the Red Ball Express contributed unselfishly to winning this century's greatest fight for freedom. I met several of them during the World War II celebration here this past Memorial Day holiday who are very proud of being a part of this group. Historically, no group of Americans endured what African Americans endured in uniform during World War II. They proudly defended America with no guarantee that their own freedom would be defended on their return home. This Nation's debt to African-American servicemen and women who served under those conditions can never be fully repaid but at a minimum we should certainly honor their service.

I urge my colleagues to join me in bringing this group's contributions out of the shadows and support House Concurrent Resolution 439.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, to reiterate, I do also urge support on our side of the aisle for H. Con. Res. 439.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank the gentleman from Washington and the gentlewoman from Texas for such an articulate description of what these great public servants did for our country.

I am reminded also, Mr. Speaker, I checked with our contractors the other day. In Iraq right now, we have private contractors like the gentleman who just escaped from the terrorists driving those trucks through Ambush Alley as they come up through Iraq facing those deadly IEDs, and RPG and AK-47 attacks. I am reminded that some 37 of those contractors from one company, from Halliburton, who were bringing supplies and food to our people up in northern Iraq have been killed in action so far. That is a dangerous, deadly run.

By the same token, it was a dangerous and deadly run in World War II. Keeping that gasoline in those tanks so that that spearhead of steel could continue to drive the Nazis back was everything. Being able to continue the momentum from the landing at Normandy and the hedgerow fighting was an absolute key to our victory. Once again, I want to thank the gentlewoman for her very articulate support of this resolution and the gentleman from Washington.

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, this year commemorates the 60th anniversary of D-Day, a pivotal point in World War II and a unique moment in time when coordination and valor forged unprecedented advancement of the Allied forces against the Axis powers. As we remember the courageous veterans whose foresight and sacrifice brought about a landmark in the struggle for Democracy, I rise today to honor the Motor Transport Service, code named the "Red Ball Express." The heroism of the lesser-known group of veterans has been under-celebrated, but their impact is eternally felt.

For 82 long days, fighting adverse driving conditions and sleep deprivation, the men of the Red Ball Express transported 500,000 tons of fuel and ordinance to forward depots throughout France. Though this immense effort lasted only three months, from August 25 to November 16, 1944, the mission of the Motor Transport Service was perhaps the most crucial to the capture of occupied France. This massive convoy effort afforded the Allied troops the means and mobility to successfully complete the campaign in the European Theater.

Composed of 80 percent African Americans, the men of the Red Ball Express met the most uncertain of risks to defend the freedom we cherish today. The altruism of these men in service is astounding. Their vision and hope for all humanity, during those 82 days, broke through barricades of tyranny and ignorance to bring liberty to new heights.

Colonel John S.D. Eisenhower wrote of their noble behavior; "the Spectacular nature of the advance was due in as great a measure to the men who drove the Red Ball trucks as to those who drove the tanks."

It is when extraordinary conflict has plagued our Nation, that we have witnessed the most astonishing acts towards peace—when the ideals of country have been tirelessly challenged, that the firmest of principles have forged a clear path. And it is when soldiers have faced disheartening adversity, that patriots have shown unabated courage of heart. Despite hardship and slight, the men of the "Red Ball Express" acted bravely in a time of fear and unselfishly in this unique moment in history when they were needed the most.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 439, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The title of the concurrent resolution was amended so as to read: "Concurrent resolution honoring the members of the Army Motor Transport Brigade who during World War II served in the trucking operation known as the Red Ball Express for their service and contribution to the Allied advance following the D-Day invasion of Normandy, France."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING FOR WINNING 2004 STANLEY CUP

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 668) congratulating the Tampa Bay Lightning for winning the 2004 National Hockey League Stanley Cup championship and for their outstanding performance during the entire 2003–2004 season, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 668

Whereas the Tampa Bay Lightning hockey team has been in existence for 12 seasons;

Whereas on June 7, 2004, the Tampa Bay Lightning won their first National Hockey League Stanley Cup championship by defeating the Calgary Flames hockey team, 4 games to 3;

Whereas head coach John Tortorella led the team to the pinnacle of success;

Whereas John Tortorella was awarded the Jack Adams Award as the National Hockey League's coach of the year after guiding the Tampa Bay Lightning to the Southeast Division title and a top seed in the Eastern Conference with a franchise-best record of 106 points;

Whereas team player Brad Richards was awarded the Conn Smythe Trophy as the most valuable player of the 2004 Stanley Cup playoffs, leading all scorers this postseason by scoring 12 goals and assisting on 14 others;

Whereas Brad Richards, who was the tenth highest scorer in the National Hockey League's regular season, scoring 79 points with 26 goals and 53 assists and incurring just 12 penalty minutes, also was awarded the Lady Byng Trophy for combining sportsmanship with a high standard of play;

Whereas team captain Dave Andreychuk is a symbol of inspiration and greatness to the entire Tampa Bay Lightning organization and fans everywhere by winning the Stanley Cup for the first time during his 22 years in the National Hockey League;

Whereas team player Martin St. Louis was awarded the Hart Trophy as the National Hockey League's 2003–2004 most valuable player during the regular season and the Art Ross Trophy as the League's highest scorer during the regular season, amassing 94 points with 38 goals and 56 assists;

Whereas the Tampa Bay Lightning hockey team is the first hockey team from the State of Florida to win the Stanley Cup; and

Whereas the entire Tampa Bay community is proud of the Tampa Bay Lightning and their extraordinary season and tremendous accomplishment: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the Tampa Bay Lightning hockey team for winning the 2004 National Hockey League Stanley Cup championship and for their outstanding performance during the entire 2003–2004 season;

(2) recognizes the achievements of the Tampa Bay Lightning players, coaches, owners, and staff who were instrumental in bringing the Stanley Cup to Tampa Bay; and

(3) congratulates the Tampa Bay community as it celebrates its second major sports championship in less than two years.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank my good friend and colleague from Tampa, Florida (Mr. DAVIS) for authoring this resolution and on behalf of the entire Florida delegation and frankly the entire State of Florida, we are delighted to be here to honor an outstanding team.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Tampa Bay Lightning organization, Coach John Tortorella, general manager Jay Feaster, owner Bill Davidson and the entire team on their victory in the Stanley Cup finals.

□ 1615

They all deserve credit for this remarkable achievement, made all the more remarkable by the fact that it is a hockey team in Florida, Mr. Speaker.

The Stanley Cup is North America's oldest professional trophy, but this year's final belonged to the NHL's youngest generation. The Tampa Bay Lightning had won just one playoff series before this season and is the first of the eight franchises added since 1991 to win the coveted cup.

The Tampa Bay Lightning entered the National Hockey League in 1992; and 12 years later, through hard work, class, a strong work ethic, and determination, they are Stanley Cup champions.

Two years ago, few could have imagined the Lightning making the playoffs, much less winning the cup. Before last season, Sports Illustrated rated Tampa Bay as the worst of the NHL's 30 teams. Defying the experts, the Lightning went on to win the Southeast division and accumulated the second most regular season points in the NHL. Now the Lightning has proven itself to be the best team in all of hockey.

Many deserve credit for this remarkable achievement and for turning this team into world champions: Coach John Tortorella for his brilliant leadership and ensuring the team remained focused, motivated, and prepared; owner Bill Davidson for having invested the resources necessary to put a winner on the ice; Captain Dave Andreychuk, who at the age of 40 had played the most games in the NHL without winning the cup; Brad Richards, who won the Conn Smythe Trophy as the playoffs' most valuable player; goal tender Nikolai Khabibulin, also known as the Bulin Wall, for his countless saves; Martin St. Louis, for winning the Hart Trophy as the league's Most Valuable Player; and all the Tampa Bay Lightning players and

personnel who worked tirelessly on and off the ice all year to make their dreams become a reality.

Most importantly, I congratulate the fans who have given so much to this team. Through years of suffering, the Lightning fans' determination and patience have paid off. This is truly a victory for the fans.

I commend the champion Tampa Bay Lightning for a wonderful and magical run this year and for all their achievements this season. The people of Florida and the entire Tampa Bay region are proud of them. They have demonstrated to us all that hard work, perseverance, and unity are the foundation of success.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is my great pleasure to take the time today to congratulate the Tampa Bay Lightning for winning the 2004 National Hockey League Stanley Cup championship and to salute them for their outstanding performance throughout the season.

Though only in the league for 12 seasons, the Lightning have quickly ascended to the pinnacle of their sport and won the hearts not only of their hometown fans in Tampa Bay but of fans all over the world. Tampa Bay fans respect that the team plays hockey the way it is supposed to be played, with hard work, discipline, and teamwork.

Special mention must be made of team captain Dave Andreychuk. After playing in one of the roughest professional leagues in the world for 21 years, retiring must have seemed the logical step to take. Instead, this true team leader rejoined his teammates for an outstanding 22nd season.

It is not always the case in sports that the most deserving team wins. Fortunately, the Lightning of Tampa Bay have been awarded the Stanley Cup for their valiant play. The Tampa area is famous for its scorching lightning and the Tampa community sure hopes this Lightning will strike twice.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the good gentleman from Florida (Mr. DAVIS), the author of the resolution.

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am here with the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM) on behalf of several representatives from the Tampa Bay area to add a few words of pride and satisfaction at this remarkable achievement. Yes, we heard that right. A Florida hockey team in the Tampa Bay area is taking the Stanley Cup home, a truly remarkable feat.

The Tampa Bay area is also considered the lightning capital of the world. Not many people know that. And this victory in the Stanley Cup confirms that we are a capital of the world now in hockey because of the Tampa Bay Lightning. In just 12 seasons, this team has succeeded after 23 games in a playoff series in 2 months in winning the Stanley Cup.

I would like to also highlight some of the remarkable individual feats that the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM) alluded to: the sensational saves of goalie Nikolai Khabibulin to maintain a one-goal lead in one of the key games; the work of Dave Andreychuk, who was mentioned, he played for 22 years, waited this long to win the Stanley Cup, setting a tie in terms of the longest amount of service before winning the Stanley Cup; Brad Richards, the MVP of the Stanley Cup playoffs with 12 goals and 14 assists; the scoring touch of Ruslan Fedotenko, who scored both goals in Game 7 against Calgary; Martin St. Louie, who is only 5 foot 9 inches tall, but makes up for that with tremendous height and heart, scored the thrilling goal in the second overtime in Game 6 with Calgary.

Many of these players I mentioned and others received awards. Our Coach Tortorella was honored with the Jack Adams Award as the National Hockey League's coach of the year based on this record. There are many teams that have played in the NHL far longer than the Tampa Bay Lightning who have yet to obtain the Stanley Cup. That is what makes this victory all the sweeter.

I would just close by saying that the Tampa Bay Lightning did not just win the Stanley Cup. They won with class, with style, with grace, which I might add is hard to do sometimes in the fiercely competitive world of hockey. They reflected on the outside what all of us in the Tampa Bay area knew was on the inside, that we represent a community with a lot of heart, a lot of determination, a lot of perseverance, and I want to join the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM) and other representatives in the Tampa Bay area in congratulating the owner, Bill Davidson; the general manager, Jay Feaster; the coach; the players; the entire Lightning organization; and all the fans of Tampa Bay for a job well done.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

On behalf of a very proud Tampa Bay area, an area that has been growing an awful lot of champions in a variety of sports over the last several years, I urge adoption of House Resolution 668.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Tampa Bay Lightning for winning the 2004 Stanley Cup.

The Lightning is a remarkable success story. Many people, including me, wondered whether this expansion team could compete against traditional hockey powerhouses when they joined the league 12 years ago. We wondered whether a sport played primarily in Canada and the northern-most regions of America could survive in an area where sand and sun are the two top attractions. We wondered whether the community would embrace a team dominated by foreign players playing a sport with rules unfamiliar to many of us.

The answer to these questions is a resounding yes. The Lightning has shown what can be accomplished when you combine skill with hard work, determination, and an unyielding will to win. Tampa Bay won the Eastern Conference championship this year, posting a stellar 46–22–8 record along the way. Then they defeated perennial hockey powers New York Islanders, Montreal Canadiens, and Philadelphia Flyers to reach the Stanley Cup finals.

The Lightning then endured a grueling seven game final against a talented Calgary team which used its physical-style of play to batter and bruise the boys from Tampa Bay. Goalie Nikolai Khabibulin posted one strong game in goal after another. The under-sized but over-achieving Right Winger, Martin St. Louis—once a Flame—rifled shot after shot by and around Calgary defenders. His remarkable season ended with being named league MVP. Center Vincent Lecavalier played with a toughness which inspired his teammates, as did Left Winger Ruslan Fedotenko, who despite being slammed head-first into the boards in game five, returned to score both of Tampa Bay's goals in game seven.

I want to congratulate Tampa Bay's coach, John Tortorella, for devising a winning strategy and keeping his charges together during the season's many tough times. I also want to commend Brad Richards, winner of the Conn Smythe Trophy for finals MVP, and Dave Andreychuk, the team's captain, who finally hoisted the Cup after an exemplary 22 year career.

I am proud that Tampa Bay's players won with class and its fans celebrated with sportsmanship. The Lightning refused to engage in the thuggery and cheap shots which contributed to Calgary's demise. Their fans showed that you can celebrate victory and revel in championship without the rioting, looting, and lawlessness in which fans in other so-called big-time sports cities engage. Let there be no doubt; Tampa is a big-time sports city, one whose teams and fans set a standard which others would do well to follow.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent the hard-working men and women of the Tampa Bay area in Congress. I am especially gratified that two of its professional sports teams, the Buccaneers and now the Lightning, have reached the pinnacle of their professions and shown the spirit, determination, and sportsmanship that have come to exemplify Tampa Bay, or as others should call it, Tiltetown. I commend the Lightning on winning the 2004 Stanley Cup and for capturing the imagination and hearts of a city along the way. I wish them well in next season's title defense.

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to praise the Tampa Bay Lightning hockey team, coaches and staff as 2003–2004 champions of the National Hockey League.

One week ago today, the “Ning” skated to a game seven victory and won the coveted, 112-year-old championship trophy: “Lord Stanley's Cup.” I'd also like to recognize the outstanding, devoted fans of the Tampa Bay area.

This year's team showed the spirit, work ethic, tenacity and sportsmanship that is illustrative of the Central Florida community they live in.

The players, coaches and staff not only provide the fans with a great sense of community by uniting them and providing entertainment, many of them give back to the community by volunteering in schools, hospitals and other community centers.

On behalf of the thousands of loyal Lightning fans I represent in the suburbs north of Tampa, I am delighted to recognize the Tampa Bay Lightning for winning the Stanley Cup last week.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 668, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING FORMER PRESIDENT GEORGE HERBERT WALKER BUSH ON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 653) honoring former President George Herbert Walker Bush on the occasion of his 80th birthday, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 653

Whereas President George Herbert Walker Bush served as the Forty-First President of the United States and brought to the White House a dedication to traditional American values and a commitment to use American strength as a force for good;

Whereas, during his Presidency, the Communist empire dissolved, the Soviet Union ceased to exist, and the Berlin Wall fell;

Whereas, during his Presidency, American troops overthrew the corrupt regime of General Manuel Noriega;

Whereas President George H.W. Bush rallied the United States people, the United Nations, and Congress and sent over 500,000 American military personnel, who were joined by approximately 200,000 military and other personnel from allied nations, as part of Operation Desert Storm, to defeat Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's million-man army which invaded Kuwait and threatened to move into Saudi Arabia;

Whereas President Bush and his very able Secretary of State secured military and financial support from the United Nations, resulting in many nations participating, for the first time ever, in paying their share of the cost of a major war;

Whereas, during World War II, George H.W. Bush answered the call to duty by enlisting in the armed forces on his 18th birthday, becoming the youngest pilot in the Navy when he received his wings, and flying 58 combat missions, including being shot down by Japanese anti-aircraft fire and rescued by a United States submarine, for which he was awarded, among other decorations, the Distinguished Flying Cross for bravery in action;

Whereas George H.W. Bush continued his commitment to public service by serving two terms as a Representative in the United

States Congress from Texas, serving as Ambassador to the United Nations, Chairman of the Republican National Committee, Chief of the United States Liaison Office in the People's Republic of China, and Director of the Central Intelligence Agency;

Whereas George H.W. Bush campaigned for the Republican nomination for President in 1980 and thereafter was chosen by Ronald Reagan to be his running mate, and subsequently served as Vice President of the United States with responsibility for several domestic areas, including Federal deregulation and anti-drug programs; and

Whereas, in 1988, George H.W. Bush won the Republican nomination for President and was elected as the Forty-First President of the United States, probably brought the greatest portfolio to the office of the Presidency since Thomas Jefferson, and served our Nation for four years with distinction and integrity: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives honors former President George H.W. Bush on the occasion of his 80th birthday on June 12, 2004, extends its congratulations and best wishes to him and to his family, former First Lady Barbara Bush, and his children, President George W. Bush, the Honorable Jeb Bush, Neil Bush, Marvin Bush, and Dorothy Bush Koch, and pays tribute to his lifetime of service on behalf of the Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, last week was a somber one for America. The Nation mourned the loss of its beloved 40th President, Ronald Wilson Reagan. All heard numerous revealing accounts of President Reagan's leadership, compassion, and humor.

One of the most touching stories told during the past week was one by the one-time political rival of President Reagan, who ultimately became a close associate and friend. The story took place when President Reagan was recuperating at George Washington University Hospital following the assassination attempt on his life on March 30, 1981, just over 2 months after he took office.

The story went like this: "Days after being shot, weak from wounds, (President Reagan) spilled water from a sink, and entering the hospital room, aides saw him on his hands and knees wiping water from the floor. (The President) worried that his nurse would get in trouble."

Mr. Speaker, the eloquent speaker of these words was George H.W. Bush at

President Reagan's funeral last Friday at the National Cathedral. Many people may not have heard that President George Bush, Bush "41," turned 80 years of age on Saturday because of the Nation's week-long celebration of President Reagan's life, which overshadowed President Bush's birthday. But today the House returns to its normal legislative business as we consider House Resolution 653 that honors President George H.W. Bush on the occasion of his 80th birthday.

Mr. Speaker, few Presidents have ever moved into the White House as qualified to lead this Nation as one of Texas's most distinguished citizens, George Herbert Walker Bush. As the youngest pilot in the Navy, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross after flying 58 combat missions during World War II before returning home to graduate as a member of Phi Beta Kappa at Yale University, where he also captained the baseball team.

After college, he became a successful businessman in west Texas, earned two terms as a Member of this House, and served such high-profile positions as ambassador to the United Nations, ambassador to China, chairman of the Republican National Committee, and Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

In 1980 George H.W. Bush was elected as part of the national Republican ticket with Ronald Reagan and served as Vice President for 8 years. Vice President Bush became President Bush 41 when he was elected in 1988. In the White House, President Bush was perhaps best known for working to inspire a "kinder, gentler America" at home and leading the Nation to free Kuwait overseas. Following the August 1990 invasion of Saddam Hussein's Iraqi forces, President Bush rallied the world community, the U.S. Armed Forces, and the American people to dislodge Saddam Hussein's army from its control of neighboring Kuwait.

I want to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL), my good friend, for introducing this meaningful resolution that wishes our 41st President, George Herbert Walker Bush, a happy 80th birthday, and that birthday was on Saturday, June 12. And on Sunday, June 13, I watched him jump out of an airplane at College Station, and he still has got plenty of spark.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, many of us looked in awe as former President George Herbert Walker Bush parachuted from a plane yesterday to celebrate his 80th birthday. Today I am pleased to join my colleagues to celebrate the entire life of our former President on his 80th birthday.

Born into a family known for its tradition of public service and having served his country in many important posts, George Bush enlisted in the armed services at the age of 18. The

youngest pilot in the Navy when he earned his wings, George Bush flew 58 combat missions during World War II. So we can see the former President was only continuing what he had first done as a young pilot when he parachuted from that plane yesterday.

After being shot down during a mission in the Pacific, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for bravery in action. As President, George H.W. Bush presided over the Nation through major events in our history. These events included the dissolution of the Soviet Union; the tearing down of the Berlin Wall; and the first war with Iraq, Operation Desert Storm. Through all of these events, President Bush served his country with remarkable dedication.

Today it is my privilege to thank him for his hard work for our country and to wish him a happy 80th birthday.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1630

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I know the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) wanted to be here very badly for consideration of H. Res. 653 today, but his flight was delayed, which I had a bad experience with that last week so I know exactly what he is going through, and he is unable to be present. But I want to highly commend him for putting forth this resolution and doing all the work on this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the adoption of House Resolution 653.

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 653, honoring former President George Herbert Walker Bush on the occasion of his 80th birthday on June 12.

Thousands of friends and supporters celebrated the former President's birthday in Houston and in College Station this past weekend. In true George H.W. Bush style, the former President capped the festivities in college Station by jumping from an airplane above his presidential library at Texas A&M University and earning his U.S. Army parachutist wings. He had trained to make a solo jump, but wind and cloud conditions required that it be a tandem jump. With a practice jump made earlier Sunday, Mr. Bush has now made five jumps, earning the parachutist badge. One of those jumps was a solo skydive on his 75th birthday, and we can only assume that he is likely to consider another solo jump in the future.

This ability to rise to any challenge—fearlessly and with a sense of determination—characterizes the life of our Forty-first President, who dedicated a lifetime to public service and probably brought to the Nation's highest office the greatest portfolio of any President since Thomas Jefferson.

His service began during World War II, when he enlisted in the armed forces on his 18th birthday and was the youngest pilot in the Navy when he received his wings. He flew 58 combat missions and was shot down by Japanese anti-aircraft fire and rescued by a United States submarine, for which he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

His service to his country continued as a United States Representative from Texas for

two terms. Thereafter he served as Ambassador to the United Nations, Chairman of the Republican National Committee, Chief of the United States Liaison Office in the People's Republic of China, and Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

From 1980 through 1988, he served President Ronald Reagan and our Nation with distinction as Vice President, with responsibility for multiple areas of government. His eloquent tribute to Mr. Reagan at the National Cathedral last Friday reflected his great friendship and working relationship with President Reagan as well as the late President's values and sense of humor.

In 1988 George H.W. Bush won the Republican nomination for President and was elected as the Forty-First President of the United States. His Administration was marked by a magnitude of historic change as well as challenge. During his Presidency, building on the policies and achievements of President Reagan and previous Administrations, the Communist empire dissolved, the Soviet Union ceased to exist, and the Berlin Wall fell.

During his Presidency, American troops overthrew the corrupt regime of General Manuel Noriega. And during his Administration President Bush launched what would become one of the most successful military campaigns of the late 20th century—Operation Desert Storm. President Bush rallied the United States, Congress, and the United Nations in a campaign that would defeat Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's million-man army which invaded Kuwait and threatened to move into Saudi Arabia. Over 500,000 American military personnel were joined by 200,000 military and other personnel from allied nations, and the cost of the war was shared by many nations who participated.

I remember this time well, not only for what it meant to our Nation, but because it also occurred during a time of personal challenge for my family. On the day that President Bush announced Desert Storm—just before he went on national television to announce the campaign—he took time from the immense pressures of the day to call and extend his best wishes to my family who were gathered at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. This gesture speaks volumes about his character and the compassion he demonstrated in countless ways and in his Points of Light vision for the country. It is one of the most poignant moments in my family's life and one for which I will be eternally grateful.

George H.W. Bush has been my friend for many years. We were both Navy pilots, and we are from the same generation and close to the same age. He has been an inspiration to me and to so many, as he gave so much of himself to his country—and at the same time also was a devoted husband to Barbara and a great father to his children, our current President George W. Bush, the Honorable Jeb Bush, Neil Bush, Marvin Bush, Dorothy Bush Koch, and for a brief but precious time to his little girl, Robin, who died tragically in early childhood.

Mr. Speaker, today I am honored to join my colleagues in the House of Representatives to pay tribute to former President George H.W. Bush for his lifetime of service on behalf of our Nation and to honor him on the occasion of his 80th birthday. May God continue to bless him and his family—and may he be blessed with the opportunity to make another solo jump.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 653, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING SERVICE OF THOSE WHO VOLUNTEER TIME TO PARTICIPATE IN FUNERAL HONOR GUARDS AT INTERMENT OR MEMORIALIZATION OF DECEASED VETERANS OF UNIFORMED SERVICES OF UNITED STATES AT NATIONAL CEMETERIES

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 260) recognizing and honoring the service of those who volunteer their time to participate in funeral honor guards at the interment or memorialization of deceased veterans of the uniformed services of the United States at national cemeteries across the country.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 260

Whereas it is important that the Nation provide proper respect and fitting recognition to deceased veterans;

Whereas members of the uniformed services of the United States make significant contributions to the general welfare of the United States;

Whereas the furnishing of an honor guard at the interment or memorialization of a deceased veteran shows the proper respect to those who have passed away after serving their country;

Whereas the family of a deceased veteran may request an honor guard service and deserves the comfort of knowing that a respectful service will take place; and

Whereas currently there are many demands placed on active duty units across the country and there are not enough active duty honor guard units available to perform these important services: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress hereby recognizes and honors the service of those outside the active components of the Armed Forces who volunteer their time to participate in funeral honor guards at the interment or memorialization of deceased veterans of the uniformed services of the United States at national cemeteries across the country, as exemplified by the proud work performed by the members of numerous patriotic organizations across the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

South Carolina (Mr. BROWN) and the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BROWN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Con. Res. 260.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 260, to recognize and honor the service of those who volunteer their time to represent the military at veterans' funerals.

Approximately 1,800 veterans of our Armed Forces die every day. Eleven hundred of them are World War II veterans. An average of 236 burials take place each weekday at the various VA national cemeteries located throughout the country. The families of many of these veterans request that their military service be recognized as they are laid to rest.

A grateful Nation has assigned the Department of Defense the responsibility for responding to those family requests through its military funeral honors program. However, because active duty service members are not always available, the Department must rely on volunteers to provide the appropriate honors in about one-third of the requests. The remainder are performed by active duty and reserve service members of the five military branches or National Guard members.

Since 2001, the law has required that at least two members of the funeral honors detail be members of the Armed Forces, and at least one of them be a member of the branch of service in which the deceased veteran served. The remainder of the honor guard may consist of members of the Armed Forces or members of veterans organizations or other organizations approved by the Secretary of Defense. At a minimum, the honor detail performs a ceremony that includes the folding and presenting of the American flag to the veteran's next of kin and the playing of Taps.

Mr. Speaker, according to the Department of Defense, the number of volunteers who participate with the military in performing military funeral honors at both national and private cemeteries increased from 27,767 in 2000, to 51,688 in 2003. Given the demands being placed on those currently serving on active duty, this increased volunteer participation is indispensable to meeting our obligation to honor the service of each deceased veteran.

Thus, it is an appropriate time that we recognize and thank those volunteers. They are indeed proud and patriotic veterans who selflessly give back to their comrades and provide comfort to the veteran's family and friends. As any veteran will tell you, their allegiance to the military and its service members does not end when they are discharged from service. This is a bond that lasts for a lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my good friend the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. BONO) for introducing concurrent resolution, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 260. This important measure recognizes and honors the service of individuals who volunteer as honor guards during funeral and memorial services at national cemeteries.

I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Chairman SMITH), the ranking member, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS), and my good friend, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Benefits, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BROWN), for their steady leadership of veterans issues in the committee.

I also want to commend the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. BONO) for her work on this resolution, and I want to thank all my colleagues who helped to bring this before us today. Additionally, I would like to recognize the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) for her work on a similar resolution that recognizes the United States Army Volunteer Reserve for its distinguished service to veterans and their families.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to represent the Second Congressional District in the State of Maine. My State has one of the highest percentage of veterans populations in the country. I am sure that they support this resolution and join me when I say that the veterans of this Nation deserve nothing less than an honorable and dignified final resting place.

I would like to personally recognize the 23 members of Maine's honor guard for their service. Ten of these individuals are currently deployed and we pray for their quick and safe return. These 23 soldiers serve above and beyond their normal duties to participate in the honor guard, performing over 50 missions a year. Without their effort and sacrifice, our Nation would not shine so bright and we would not live as free as we do today.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, many of the brave men and women who put on the uniform to protect us during World War II and the Korean War are passing away every day. We also find ourselves engaged in hostilities in Afghanistan, Iraq and around the world, and, because of this, we are now burying vet-

erans of a new generation much too soon.

Mr. Speaker, it is our responsibility to provide our brave men and women in uniform an honorable and dignified memorial service. Indeed, without the sacrifice of these volunteer honor guards, we would have a more difficult time fulfilling our responsibility. I thank them for their service and appreciate their efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I support this measure, and I urge all Members to do so.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 260.

Mrs. BONO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 260, which I introduced last year on behalf of myself and Representatives HENRY BROWN, MIKE BILIRAKIS, KEN CALVERT, JIM DEMINT, JOHNNY ISAKSON, JERRY LEWIS, JOHN SHADEGG and ZACH WAMP. This resolution recognizes and honors the important service of those who volunteer their time to participate in funeral honor guards. These volunteers serve at the interment or memorialization of deceased veterans of the uniformed services of the United States at national cemeteries across the country.

A veteran's family may request the presence of active duty military personnel to provide honor guard services at their loved one's funeral. Unfortunately at times like this when our military is so desperately needed overseas, there is a shortage of available active duty personnel who can perform this duty. Numerous veteran volunteers help fill this void and perform the honor guard duty themselves. These volunteers are once again answering our Nation's call by honoring the military service of their fellow veterans. I feel it is incumbent upon Congress to recognize the service of volunteer honor guards as well as the continuing contribution that these individuals make to our Nation and the families of their fallen brethren.

I would like to specifically honor the many of my district's military retirees who are members of Semper Fi No. 1, an organization that performs volunteer honor guard services at Riverside National Cemetery and has been a driving force behind the creation of volunteer honor guard service throughout the Nation. I am proud to represent the many military retirees who serve as volunteer honor guards.

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BROWN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 260.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MODIFYING CERTAIN DEADLINES FOR MACHINE-READABLE, TAMPER-RESISTANT ENTRY AND EXIT DOCUMENTS

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4417) to modify certain deadlines pertaining to machine-readable, tamper-resistant entry and exit documents.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4417

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN DEADLINES FOR MACHINE-READABLE, TAMPER-RESISTANT ENTRY AND EXIT DOCUMENTS.

Section 303 of the Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act of 2002 (8 U.S.C. 1732) is amended, in each of subsections (b)(2)(A), (c)(1), and (c)(2), by striking "2004," and inserting "2005,".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4417.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4417. The Visa Waiver Program allows travelers from certain designated countries to come to the United States as temporary visitors without having to obtain a non-immigrant visa. There are currently more than 10 million foreign visitors entering the United States every year under this program.

Since its creation in 1986, the program has greatly facilitated travel to the United States from participating foreign countries. Through reciprocal arrangements, American international travelers also benefit with greater ease of travel.

The Visa Waiver Program was established on the premise that nationals from participating countries pose little security risk or threat of overstaying their period of admittance, which under the current program is a maximum of 90 days. After the tragic events of September 11, we recognize that a traveler from a visa waiver country can pose a serious threat, especially when the country of origin differs from the country that issues the passport used to enter our country.

It was, in part, to address threats like this that I offered the Enhanced Visa Security and Visa Entry Reform Act of 2002. The act requires the Visa

Waiver Program countries to certify that they have established systems to issue their nationals machine-readable passports that are tamper-resistant and incorporate biometric identifiers that comply with the biometric identifier standards established by the International Civil Aviation Organization.

The act sets a firm deadline of October 26, 2004, after which anyone applying for admission to the United States under the program, with passports issued after that date, must present a passport that meets these standards or otherwise obtain a visa from a United States embassy or consulate overseas.

This requirement will close several security loopholes. First, it will allow the Department of Homeland Security inspectors at ports-of-entry to determine whether a passport properly identifies its bearer. This will combat terrorist imposters and prevent them from defeating lookout lists on which they are posted.

Second, it will make passports much harder to alter or counterfeit.

Third, in conjunction with the installation of scanners at ports-of-entry to read these passports and the completion of exit controls, the DHS can track the arrival and departure of travelers and identify those who overstay their visas.

My goal as author of this act in selecting the October 2004 deadline was to compel countries to act promptly to modernize their passports. I have written to the foreign governments participating in the Visa Waiver Program to ascertain how soon they will be ready to issue biometric passports. I regret that most visa waiver countries will not meet the October 2004 deadline.

However, many are making significant progress and have indicated that the October 2005 deadline is reachable. An example is Belgium, which had one of the weakest passport regimes in Europe, and now has so completely revised its approach that it is the first visa waiver country to meet the new biometric requirements. Belgium has also recently won the Interpol award for the best passport security. Likewise, Austria, Denmark and Slovenia have working prototypes of biometric passports and will begin issuing them as soon as the European Union sets its internal standards for member countries.

Nonetheless, the Secretaries of Homeland Security and State have testified before the House Committee on the Judiciary that most visa waiver countries are still resolving privacy issues, chip durability concerns and production and procurement delays. Accordingly, they asked for legislation to extend the biometric passport deadline.

To minimize the risk of extending the deadline, the administration has initiated security procedures that begin in September of this year. Specifically, the Department of Homeland Security will begin fingerprinting each traveler from the Visa Waiver Program

countries so as to strengthen current abbreviated inspection process for visa waiver travelers.

H.R. 4417 simply extends the October 26, 2004, deadline by one year. While this extension provides more time to meet the requirement, this additional breathing space should not lead visa waiver countries nor our own government to become complacent.

The committee will conduct bipartisan oversight to ensure that the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security are working as hard as they can to get their own systems ready to validate biometric passports when they are presented at ports-of-entry. While the visa waiver countries are committing their resources and intellectual talent to comply with our new requirements for identity, our own government should do no less.

I also expect that the State Department will step up pressure on visa waiver countries to meet the new October 2005 deadline instead of providing erroneous assurances that Congress will again provide an extension should they fail to meet the new date.

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On the other hand, it is also crucial that we enact this legislation expeditiously in order to provide our own travel and tourism industry the certainty they need to plan events for the coming months that involve large numbers of travelers from the visa waiver countries.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the gentleman from Wisconsin (Chairman SENSENBRENNER) and I can join forces to make a necessary adjustment in our immigration and homeland security laws that would ensure that the millions of Americans who work in the travel industry do not suffer while we continue to improve new immigration security technologies.

Today we are considering legislation to extend by 1 year the requirement that travelers from visa waiver countries present biometric machine-readable passports at United States ports of entry. A 1-year extension will allow business visitors and tourists from the 27 nations in the visa waiver program to continue to make plans for the near future with currently valid passports and travel to the United States while technology is improved.

Using biometric passports will make us safer, but only if the technology is effective, durable, and part of a globally interoperable system that is compatible between nations. A 1-year extension will give Congress and the State Department more time to assess the very important questions of protecting privacy and ensuring efficient processing, while continuing to make serious steps toward a system that will secure our ports and national security.

As we balance serious threats to national security with our needs to protect our liberty, we must adhere to our fundamental values as an open society. Most visitors come with goodwill, contribute to our economy, share their knowledge, learn about our culture, and spread the promise of democracy and freedom around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join the gentleman from Wisconsin (Chairman SENSENBRENNER) and me in supporting this legislation to ensure that the benefit of travel and exchange are not lost in the war on terror.

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support and as a cosponsor of H.R. 4417, which will extend for one year the deadline for countries to continue eligibility in our Visa Waiver Program by issuing passports which are both machine-readable and also include biometric identifiers.

I do so with a clear focus on tourism, the primary industry in my state. According to the State of Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, in 2002, tourists spent more than \$11 billion during their vacations in the state. A significant part of these expenditures come from international tourists. And while facilitated international travel is essential not only to recreational tourism, it is also key to international commerce, especially from Asia, and to the education in Hawaii of foreign nationals, a major and growing component of our economy.

Each day, thousands of visitors arrive to Hawaii from foreign destinations, including those countries in the Visa Waiver Program (VWP). The tourism industry not only in my state, but every state in the Nation, faces grave consequences if this extension is not granted. According to the State Department, if the deadline is not extended, it expects to process an additional 5 million visas in 2005 alone. This will cripple our embassies and consulates worldwide, compound the existing program of visa issuance, and spell great hardship not only for the travel industry but also business and commerce in general throughout the United States.

The Patriot Act justifiably legislated the machine-readable passport requirement for VWP travelers, and additionally gave the Secretary of State authority to postpone the effective date. However, the Secretary of State lacks further authority to extend the deadline on his own. The Secretary of State, working with the Secretary of Homeland Security, has granted a postponement only until October 26, 2004 of the date by which VWP travelers from 21 countries must present a machine-readable passport at a U.S. port of entry to be admitted to the United States without a visa. Another year is needed; only Congress can extend the deadline, and we must do so passing this legislation today.

While most of the VWP countries are located in Western Europe, there are several countries in the Asia-Pacific Rim which will benefit from an extension of the October 26, 2004 deadline, including Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Brunei, and Japan. These are the countries of most concern to my home.

Mr. Speaker, I share some additional thoughts from key officials within my State's tourism industry. The Director of the State of Hawaii Department of Business Economic Development and Tourism, Mr. Theodore E. Liu,

recently wrote that his department is "in total support of extending [the deadline of] the Visa Waiver Program countries to have machine readable passports." The President and Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Tourism Agency, Mr. Rex D. Johnson, wrote that the implementation of "the program before countries are ready to comply would undoubtedly create mass confusion in international travel."

To be clear, I support the overall requirement of machine-readable passports as well as the use of biometrics on travel documents, both American and international. And I call upon the executive branch to place biometrics upon a machine-readable American passport as quickly as possible, because biometrics can assist not only our country, but every country, to ensure that the person listed on the passport is the same person who presents the passport upon entering the country. As a biometric identifier is an electronic scan of a physical feature or features, including an eye, hand, fingerprint, or face, use of a biometric identifier allows an immigration inspector to know for certain that the person appearing before him or her is the same person to whom a passenger or visa was issued.

But, Mr. Speaker, given the current situation, we must extend the deadline at least this one year. I therefore agree with the proposal of chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, the chairman and ranking member of the International Relations Committee, and others, and implore my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the visa waiver program (VWP) allows nationals from 27 countries to enter the United States as nonimmigrant visitors for business or pleasure without first obtaining a visa from a U.S. consulate office. This facilitates international travel and commerce and eases consular office workloads. Last year, approximately 13.5 million visitors entered the United States under this program.

The Enhanced Border Security and Visa Entry Reform Act of 2002 mandated that by October 26, 2004, the government of each VWP country must certify that it has established a program to issue machine-readable passports that are tamper-resistant and incorporate a biometric identifier. This only would apply to new passports that are issued after the October 26, 2004, deadline.

While all 27 VWP countries have a program in place to develop a machine readable, biometric passport, few of the countries will be in a position to start issuing them by the deadline. The required technical and interoperability standards have not yet been completed by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). Preliminary ICAO standards were released in May 2003, but they failed to address some key issues, including interoperable chip security standards and interoperable reader standards. Also, ICAO's decision to make facial recognition technology the standard passport biometric was not made until May 2003, leaving VWP countries only 17 months to move a biometric passport from design to production, a process that normally takes years. It is apparent that very few VWP countries will be able to meet the deadline for incorporating the biometric identifiers. H.R. 4417 would extend the deadline for one year. If more time is needed, we can revisit the issue when that deadline approaches.

If the deadline is not extended, the participating countries that fail to meet it will lose the

privilege of participating in the program, and the nationals of those countries will need visas to enter the United States. The State Department has estimated that this would result in the need to process an additional 5 million visas.

I am concerned about the effect that even a temporary disruption of the visa waiver program could have on the international tourist industry. In the year 2000, the State of Texas alone received revenue from the international tourist industry that totaled \$3,751.3 million. This included \$410.6 million on public transportation, \$111.1 million on automobile transportation, \$1,029.2 million on lodging, \$731.4 million on food services, \$320.2 million on entertainment and recreation, and \$1,148.9 million in general trade. The numbers for the entire country would be much larger. A major reduction in such revenue would have an adverse impact on the economy of our country.

Consequently, I urge you to vote for H.R. 4417 to extend the deadline.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation.

I want to thank the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee for his leadership in this area. The visa waiver program is a critically important program, under which countries that send citizens that do not engage in visa fraud or overstay their visas do not have to obtain visas to visit our country for business or tourism. It has proven to be a very effective program for dealing with the increased global travel of the past few decades.

However, I firmly agree with my good friend from Wisconsin that citizens from countries who do not have to go through the visa process should have secure, tamper-proof passports to ensure that the visa waiver program is not abused by individuals who try to enter our country with counterfeit passports. Indeed, the statutory deadline of October 26, 2004 in the Enhanced Border Security Act of May 2002 encouraged International Civil Aviation Organization to accelerate its ongoing efforts in the development of uniform standards for secure passports, including the use of biometric data in such passports. Given the progress so far, I have no objection to an extension of this current statutory deadline to allow countries to implement these standards.

However, I believe that the Congress should seriously consider a two-year extension rather than the one-year extension in the current bill. I understand that ICAO did not complete preliminary biometric standards using facial recognition technology until May 2003 and is on only now finalizing these standards. In order for the new passports and the technology needed to read these passports to become mature and to be fully tested, as well as producing the new passports and acquiring and deploying the devices necessary to read the new passports, more than the one year extension being approved today may well be necessary.

In this context, I think it may well be prudent to consider moving towards a two-year extension as this legislation moves through the legislative process, and I would support that approach. If we do not, I predict we will be back here at the same time next year, approving a further one year extension.

I want to once again thank my good friend from Wisconsin for his leadership on this issue and urge my colleagues to support this legislation at this time.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I also have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4417.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THAT FLAG DAY ORIGINATED IN OZAUKEE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 662) recognizing that Flag Day originated in Ozaukee County, Wisconsin.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 662

Whereas on June 14, 1777, the Stars and Stripes was officially adopted as the national flag of the United States;

Whereas in 1885, Bernard John Cigrand, a school teacher from Waubesa, Wisconsin, urged the students at the public school in Fredonia, Wisconsin, to observe June 14 as "Flag Birthday";

Whereas Mr. Cigrand placed a ten inch 38-star flag in an inkwell and instructed his students at Stony Hill School to write essays on what the flag meant to them;

Whereas on May 30, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson issued a Presidential Proclamation that officially established June 14 as Flag Day; and

Whereas on August 3, 1949, President Truman signed an Act of Congress designating June 14 of each year as National Flag Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) urges the people of the United States to study, reflect on, and celebrate the importance of the flag of the United States;

(2) encourages the people of the United States to display the flag of the United States in accordance with the provisions of chapter 1 of title 4, United States Code; and

(3) recognizes that Flag Day originated in Ozaukee County, Wisconsin.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on House Resolution 662 currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I rise in support of this resolution recognizing Flag Day, which is celebrated each year on this day, June 14.

The American flag is the symbol of hope, freedom, and unity. The flag symbolizes the resolve of our country and demonstrates our ability to overcome adversity. As we encounter new challenges, we are reminded of the men and women who have fought to defend and preserve the values that the flag represents. These men and women serve as a testament to our great Nation. They made their sacrifice because of their belief in our country and the values we hold so dear. There is no greater symbol of that sacrifice than the American flag.

Flag Day originated in 1885 with a school teacher named Bernard John Cigrand in Ozaukee County, Wisconsin. Cigrand, inspired by love for his adopted country, placed a 38-star flag in the inkwell of his classroom and instructed his students at Stony Hill School to write essays on what the flag meant to them. Cigrand's enthusiasm for the flag sparked the interest of his students, but it did not stop there. Cigrand also spent numerous hours writing to magazines and newspapers emphasizing the good that would come out of a holiday celebrating the flag. Without his hard work and dedication, Flag Day would not exist. For his efforts, Cigrand was cited by President Bush in his 2001 Flag Day proclamation as one of the first to push for a national celebration for the flag.

Although it began in a small, one-room schoolhouse in Wisconsin, Flag Day gained popularity in 1889 when George Balch, a schoolteacher in New York City, organized activities celebrating the American flag. It was later adopted by the State Board of Education in New York. The Flag Day celebrations expanded to Philadelphia where it was celebrated by the Betsy Ross House in 1891. The following year, the New York Society of Sons celebrated Flag Day.

Although pockets of the country celebrated Flag Day, it did not become an official holiday until 1916 when it was officially established by the proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson. Even though Flag Day was celebrated nationally after this proclamation, it was not until August 3, 1949, that President Truman signed an act of Congress which officially designated June 14 as National Flag Day.

One of the many important events honoring the American flag occurs each year right where Flag Day began. People from all over Wisconsin turn out to raise their flags and celebrate this day. Individuals line the streets in Waubeka to watch parades that feature marching and dancing bands. Different versions of the flag are on display, including a 30-star flag which symbolizes

the addition of Wisconsin to the Union. There is no other place in the country where people more enthusiastically celebrate the American flag than Waubeka, Wisconsin.

Today, as people across the country raise their American flags to celebrate the resolve of our great Nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating National Flag Day and recognizing Ozaukee County, Wisconsin, as the birth of Flag Day.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution offered by the distinguished chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary.

The gentleman's resolution recognizes the efforts of Bernard John Cigrand, a schoolteacher from Waubeka, Wisconsin, who, in 1885, urged his students to observe June 14 as Flag Birthday.

That effort, at a time when the flag had only 38 stars, developed into Flag Day, which President Truman signed into law on August 3, 1949.

As we observe Flag Day, and we consider this resolution, I hope all Americans would, as the resolution urges, reflect on the values that the flag represents: the rights of all Americans under the law to free speech, free press, and freedom of assembly; religious liberty; the right to face their accusers in court; to be secure in their homes and papers; to be free from cruel and unusual punishment; and the right to due process of law.

It is those values and this Nation which fought to protect these rights, that make the flag such a potent symbol. I hope that as we celebrate Flag Day, Mr. Speaker, we will all take time to celebrate what the flag represents.

I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, for bringing this resolution forward; and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I thank him also for being such a strong advocate for protecting the flag and our heritage.

Mr. Speaker, today we observe Flag Day, a day, as previous speakers have indicated, we commemorate the adoption of our flag on June 14, 1777. This past weekend, I walked in the Flag Day parade in Appleton, Wisconsin, and to this unbiased observer, the largest and grandest such celebration in America. We celebrated the Stars and Stripes. It was red, white and blue as far as the eye could see, and on display were the patriotism and pride that those colors

evoke in every American heart. We celebrated because this flag remained standing as we fought for our independence, fought to remain one Nation, as we fought the great wars of liberty; and it remains standing proudly as we continue to fight for freedom today. No matter the era, no matter the challenge, this symbol of our great Nation and our values is there, proud and free, for all the world to see.

As a Wisconsinite, I am proud to say that it was a schoolteacher from Wisconsin who began this celebration. How appropriate. Today is a day on which we should take a minute to stop, to look at our grand old flag, and to reflect upon what it means. We should also reflect upon the sacrifice that so many have made in so many lands far away to ensure that Old Glory will fly free and proud for generations to come.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON. Mr. Speaker, today, June 14, we celebrate Flag Day—a special time for all Americans to reflect upon, the important symbolism for which “Old Glory” stands.

Whenever we see our Nation's flag, we are reminded of what it stands for—the freedom to speak, worship, and believe as we choose.

On this particular Flag Day, I stand in honor of all our soldiers who are carrying out the real meaning of our flag in Iraq, in Afghanistan, in South Korea, in Haiti and in Asia.

The pledge to the flag is a spoken commitment to all that we as Americans hold dear: “I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America. One nation, under God, with freedom and justice for all!”

It is a promise of hope, not only to us, but to the world. It should never be said lightly, nor be disparaged.

We have a lot to be proud of in this country and the flag symbolizes to us and the world what is best about America.

It speaks of tolerance, compassion, diversity, unity, and mutual respect. It is a reflection of the totality of America.

As we honor the red, white, and blue today, we should all recognize how lucky we are to be citizens of the country that the Stars and Stripes represents.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Flag Day, June 14.

Flag Day has a particularly special meaning this year, as many of our troops are serving overseas as part of the global war against terrorism. I stand behind our brave men and women who have performed admirably in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere around the globe. They have made tremendous sacrifices on behalf of their country and have served longer deployments than expected.

The Flag of the United States continues to stand for democracy and freedom throughout the world. The Continental Congress approved the design of a national flag 227 years ago today. The American flag, in its current form, first flew over the Capitol in 1818. The flag has been altered twenty-seven times over the years. The current version dates to July 4, 1960, when Hawaii became the 50th state.

Our flag symbolizes the union between the states and federal government, as we the people of the United States seek to form a more perfect union, as envisioned in our Constitution. Since 1916, when President Woodrow Wilson issued a presidential proclamation declaring June 14 Flag Day, Americans have

commemorated the adoption of the Stars and Stripes by celebrating this special day in our Nation's history.

Flag Day also holds a special place in the history of Baltimore, Maryland, which I am privileged to represent in the House of Representatives. In 1814 in Baltimore at Fort McHenry, this Nation, this young Nation, won its second war of independence. It was the beginning of the end of the War of 1812. Francis Scott Key 190 years ago wrote his inspirational poem that became our National Anthem.

As we continue our global war on terrorism, and face a continuing threat on our shores, Francis Scott Key wrote some words that are helpful for us on this Flag Day:

"From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave.
And the Star-Spangled Banner in triumph
doth wave."

We survived the attack by a hostile power and became the strongest Nation in the world, and we will survive this attack on our democratic principles, and we will grow even stronger. Let us remember on this Flag Day the values we hold dear, and that we are willing to fight for—and even die for—these values of liberty, democracy and justice. Our flag will continue to symbolize this eternal struggle, as we seek to secure the blessings of liberty for our fellow Americans and for all humankind.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I urge the adoption of the resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 662.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING THE BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY MEN'S VOLLEYBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2004 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I-II MEN'S VOLLEYBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 643) congratulating the Brigham Young University men's volleyball team for winning the 2004 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I-II men's volleyball championship.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 643

Whereas on May 8, 2004, the Brigham Young University men's volleyball team won its third national championship in 6 years by overcoming a 10-6 deficit in game 5 to defeat Long Beach State University;

Whereas the Brigham Young University men's volleyball team achieved a 29-4 overall win-loss record, marking the second highest single season win total in Brigham Young University's volleyball history;

Whereas Tom Peterson, the head coach of the men's volleyball team, became the first

men's volleyball coach in the National Collegiate Athletic Association's history to win a national championship with 2 different schools;

Whereas team member Carlos Moreno earned the distinction of being selected the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Player of the Year, the American Volleyball Coaches Association Division I-II National Player of the Year, the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Tournament Most Valuable Player, and the National Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament Most Outstanding Player; and

Whereas the American Volleyball Coaches Association selected junior Carlos Moreno and senior Fernando Pessoa for the All-America teams with first-team honors, while senior Joe Hillman and sophomore Victor Batista received second-team citations: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives congratulates the Brigham Young University men's volleyball team for winning the 2004 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I-II men's volleyball championship.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 643.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Delaware?

There was no objection.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise in support of House Resolution 643. I want to thank my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON), for bringing this resolution forward. This resolution honors the Brigham Young University men's volleyball team for winning the 2004 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I-II men's volleyball championship.

Mr. Speaker, the mission of my alma mater, Brigham Young University, is to "develop students of faith, intellect, and character who have the skills and the desire to continue learning and to serve others throughout their lives." One of the ways that the university accomplishes this mission is by developing and supporting a first-class athletics program.

And so today we recognize this first-class athletics program and give special recognition to the national champion Cougars for winning its third national men's volleyball championship in 6 years by overcoming a 10-6 deficit in game five to defeat Long Beach State University. BYU men's volleyball team will enter next season's competition after marking the second highest single season win total in its volleyball history after achieving a 29-and-4 overall win-loss record.

In addition to the inspiring team victory, four players distinguished them-

selves from the team by being named to All-American teams at the conclusion of the season. Carlos Morento and Fernando Pessoa were recognized by the American Volleyball Coaches Association for first-team honors; and their teammates, Joe Hillman and Victor Batista, received second-team citations.

Coach Tom Peterson also deserves praise for becoming the first men's volleyball coach in the NCAA's history to win a national championship with two different schools.

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The distinction earned by these individuals and the remarkable repeat victories of the team reflect the dedication of each player, the leadership of Coach Tom Peterson, and the support of family, friends and fans.

I extend my congratulations to each of the hard working players on the successful Cougar team, to Coach Peterson and to Brigham Young University. I am happy to join my colleagues in honoring the accomplishment of this team and wish them continued success.

Once again, I strongly support House Resolution 643 and ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 643 introduced by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON), a resolution congratulating Brigham Young University for winning the Division I-II volleyball national championship.

The regular season and the championship tournament truly gave BYU an exciting run to the national championship. I want to extend my hardy congratulations to the head coach Tom Peterson and all of the BYU athletes.

BYU won a school record 21 consecutive matches during the regular season showcasing their true championship spirit.

Winning this national championship has brought national acclaim to Brigham Young University and its student athletes. I am sure this national championship will give the university and its fans something to treasure for years to come.

Mr. CANNON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Brigham Young University men's volleyball team for winning the 2004 NCAA Division I-II men's volleyball championship.

As you may know, Brigham Young University is located in the 3rd district of Utah, and it has been my pleasure to represent the University and its student body for the past 8 years. This is the third national championship in men's volleyball that BYU has won in 6 years by overcoming a 10-6 deficit in game 5 to defeat Long Beach State University.

The team achieved a 29-4 overall record for the season, marking the second highest single season win total in BYU volleyball history. I would especially like to congratulate the Cougars head coach, Tom Peterson, who became the first men's volleyball coach in NCAA history to win a national championship with 2 different schools.

The entire team deserves recognition for winning the national championship, but I would like to take a moment and recognize a few players whose abilities have garnered extra honors. Seniors Fernando Pessoa and Joe Hillman received first and second team All-American honors, respectively, and sophomore Victor Batista also received second-team honors. Junior Carlos Moreno earned the distinction of being selected the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Player of the Year, the American Volleyball Coaches Association Division I-II National Player of the Year, the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Tournament Most Valuable Player, and the NCAA Tournament Most Outstanding Player.

Madam Speaker, I again congratulate the BYU Men's Volleyball team on its championship.

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Brigham Young University men's volleyball team on their 2004 NCAA National Collegiate Men's Volleyball Championship. I am pleased to join my colleagues in cosponsoring this bill and encourage all of my colleagues in the House to support it. The Brigham Young University men's volleyball team made history before they ever set foot onto the court for the 2004 NCAA championship game. The Cougars regular season successes included a new school record of 21 straight victories, a 16–1 home court win-loss record, ten straight weeks on the USA Today/AVCA Coaches Top 15 Poll, and an average fan base of 2,600 at home court appearances.

The Cougars entered the NCAA Final Four as the top seed and the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation regular and season tournament champions. They defeated Lewis University, the defending national champions, during the semi-final match. This win led the Cougars to their fourth appearance in six years in the NCAA championship match, where they overcame a 10–6 deficit in game five to defeat Long Beach State University to win the national championship.

I congratulate the BYU men's volleyball team and Coach Tom Peterson on their championship season and wish them continued success as the build upon these accomplishments in the years to come.

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 643.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Edwin Thomas, one of his secretaries.

IMPROVING ACCESS TO ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 2004

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4278) to amend the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 to support programs of grants to States to address the assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4278

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Improving Access to Assistive Technology for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 2004".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO THE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1998.

The Assistive Technology Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

"(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the 'Assistive Technology Act of 1998'.

"(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

"Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

"Sec. 2. Findings and purposes.

"Sec. 3. Definitions.

"Sec. 4. Grants to States for purchase of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services.

"Sec. 5. Grants to States for protection and advocacy related to assistive technology.

"Sec. 6. Administrative provisions.

"Sec. 7. National activities.

"Sec. 8. Authorization of appropriations.

"SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

"(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

"(1) Disability is a natural part of the human experience and in no way diminishes the right of individuals to—

"(A) live independently;

"(B) enjoy self-determination and make choices;

"(C) benefit from an education;

"(D) pursue meaningful careers; and

"(E) enjoy full inclusion and integration in the economic, political, social, cultural, and educational mainstream of society in the United States.

"(2) Technology is one of the primary engines for economic activity, education, and innovation in the Nation, and throughout the world. The commitment of the United States to the development and utilization of technology is one of the main factors underlying the strength and vibrancy of the economy of the United States.

"(3) As technology has come to play an increasingly important role in the lives of all persons in the United States, in the conduct of business, in the functioning of government, in the fostering of communication, in the conduct of commerce, and in the provision of education, its impact upon the lives of individuals with disabilities in the United States has been comparable to its impact upon the remainder of the citizens of the United States. Any development in mainstream technology would have profound implications for individuals with disabilities in the United States.

"(4) Over the last 15 years, the Federal Government has invested in the development of statewide comprehensive systems to help individuals with disabilities gain access to assistive technology devices and services.

This partnership with States provided an important service to individuals with disabilities by strengthening the capacity of each State to assist individuals with disabilities of all ages with their assistive technology needs.

"(5) Substantial progress has been made in the development of assistive technology devices, including adaptations to existing devices that facilitate activities of daily living, that significantly benefit individuals with disabilities of all ages. These devices and adaptations increase the involvement, and reduce expenditures associated with, programs and activities that facilitate communication, ensure independent living and functioning, enable early childhood development, support educational achievement, provide and enhance employment options, and enable full participation in community living and recreation for individuals with disabilities.

"(6) Despite the success of the Federal-State partnership in providing access to assistive technology and services, there is a continued need to provide information about the availability of assistive technology, advances in improving accessibility and functionality of assistive technology, and appropriate methods to secure and utilize assistive technology in order to maximize their independence and participation of individuals with disabilities in society.

"(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

"(1) to support State efforts to improve the provision of assistive technology to individuals with disabilities through comprehensive statewide programs of technology-related assistance, for individuals with disabilities of all ages, that are designed to—

"(A) increase the availability of, funding for, access to, provision of, and training about assistive technology devices and assistive technology services;

"(B) increase the ability of individuals with disabilities of all ages to secure and maintain possession of assistive technology devices as such individuals make the transition between services offered by human service agencies or between settings of daily living (for example, between home and work);

"(C) increase the capacity of public agencies and private entities to provide and pay for assistive technology devices and assistive technology services on a statewide basis for individuals with disabilities of all ages;

"(D) increase the involvement of individuals with disabilities and, if appropriate, their family members, guardians, advocates, and authorized representatives, in decisions related to the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services;

"(E) increase and promote coordination among State agencies, between State and local agencies, among local agencies, and between State and local agencies and private entities (such as managed care providers), that are involved or are eligible to be involved in carrying out activities under this Act;

"(F) increase the awareness and facilitate the change of laws, regulations, policies, practices, procedures, and organizational structures, that facilitate the availability or provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services; and

"(G) increase awareness and knowledge of the benefits of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services among targeted individuals and the general population; and

"(2) to provide States with financial assistance that supports programs designed to

maximize the ability of individuals with disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates, and authorized representatives to obtain assistive technology devices and assistive technology services.

"SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

"In this Act:

"(1) **ADVOCACY SERVICES.**—The term 'advocacy services', except as used as part of the term 'protection and advocacy services', means services provided to assist individuals with disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates, and authorized representatives in accessing assistive technology devices and assistive technology services.

"(2) **AMERICAN INDIAN CONSORTIUM.**—The term 'American Indian Consortium' has the meaning given the term in section 102(l) of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 and that is established to provide protection and advocacy services for purposes of receiving funding under subtitle C of title I of such Act.

"(3) **ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY.**—The term 'assistive technology' means technology designed to be utilized in an assistive technology device or assistive technology service.

"(4) **ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICE.**—The term 'assistive technology device' means any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.

"(5) **ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SERVICE.**—The term 'assistive technology service' means any service that directly assists an individual with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device. Such term includes—

"(A) the evaluation of the assistive technology needs of an individual with a disability, including a functional evaluation of the impact of the provision of appropriate assistive technology and appropriate services to the individual in the customary environment of the individual;

"(B) services consisting of purchasing, leasing, or otherwise providing for the acquisition of assistive technology devices by individuals with disabilities;

"(C) services consisting of selecting, designing, fitting, customizing, adapting, applying, maintaining, repairing, or replacing assistive technology devices;

"(D) coordination and use of necessary therapies, interventions, or services with assistive technology devices, such as therapies, interventions, or services associated with education and rehabilitation plans and programs;

"(E) training or technical assistance for an individual with disabilities, or, where appropriate, the family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives of such an individual; and

"(F) training or technical assistance for professionals (including individuals providing education and rehabilitation services), employers, or other individuals who provide services to, employ, or are otherwise substantially involved in the major life functions of individuals with disabilities.

"(6) **CAPACITY BUILDING AND ADVOCACY ACTIVITIES.**—The term 'capacity building and advocacy activities' means efforts that—

"(A) result in laws, regulations, policies, practices, procedures, or organizational structures that promote consumer-responsive programs or entities; and

"(B) facilitate and increase access to, provision of, and funding for, assistive technology devices and assistive technology services, in order to empower individuals with disabilities to achieve greater independence, pro-

ductivity, and integration and inclusion within the community and the workforce.

"(7) **COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE PROGRAM OF TECHNOLOGY-RELATED ASSISTANCE.**—The term 'comprehensive statewide program of technology-related assistance' means a consumer-responsive program of technology-related assistance for individuals with disabilities, implemented by a State, and equally available to all individuals with disabilities residing in the State, regardless of their type of disability, age, income level, or location of residence in the State, or the type of assistive technology device or assistive technology service required.

"(8) **CONSUMER-RESPONSIVE.**—The term 'consumer-responsive'—

"(A) with regard to policies, means that the policies are consistent with the principles of—

"(i) respect for individual dignity, personal responsibility, self-determination, and pursuit of meaningful careers, based on informed choice, of individuals with disabilities;

"(ii) respect for the privacy, rights, and equal access (including the use of accessible formats) of such individuals;

"(iii) inclusion, integration, and full participation of such individuals in society;

"(iv) support for the involvement in decisions of a family member, a guardian, an advocate, or an authorized representative, if an individual with a disability requests, desires, or needs such involvement; and

"(v) support for individual and systems advocacy and community involvement; and

"(B) with respect to an entity, program, or activity, means that the entity, program, or activity—

"(i) is easily accessible to, and usable by, individuals with disabilities and, when appropriate, their family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives;

"(ii) responds to the needs of individuals with disabilities in a timely and appropriate manner; and

"(iii) facilitates the full and meaningful participation of individuals with disabilities (including individuals from underrepresented populations and rural populations) and their family members, guardians, advocates, and authorized representatives, in—

"(I) decisions relating to the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services to such individuals; and

"(II) decisions related to the maintenance, improvement, and evaluation of the comprehensive statewide program of technology-related assistance, including decisions that affect capacity building and advocacy activities.

"(9) **DISABILITY.**—The term 'disability' means a condition of an individual that is considered to be a disability or handicap for the purposes of any Federal law other than this Act or for the purposes of the law of the State in which the individual resides.

"(10) **INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY; INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.**—

"(A) **INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY.**—The term 'individual with a disability' means any individual of any age, race, or ethnicity—

"(i) who has a disability; and

"(ii) who is or would be enabled by an assistive technology device or an assistive technology service to minimize deterioration in functioning, to maintain a level of functioning, or to achieve a greater level of functioning in any major life activity.

"(B) **INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.**—The term 'individuals with disabilities' means more than one individual with a disability.

"(11) **INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**—The term 'institution of higher education' has the meaning given such term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1141(a)), and includes a community

college receiving funding under the Tribally Controlled Community College Assistance Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

"(12) **PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY SERVICES.**—The term 'protection and advocacy services' means services that—

"(A) are described in part C of the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (42 U.S.C. 6041 et seq.), the Protection and Advocacy for Mentally Ill Individuals Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 10801 et seq.), or section 509 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; and

"(B) assist individuals with disabilities with respect to assistive technology devices and assistive technology services.

"(13) **SECRETARY.**—The term 'Secretary' means the Secretary of Education.

"(14) **STATE.**—

"(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the term 'State' means each of the several States of the United States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

"(B) **OUTLYING AREAS.**—In sections 4(c) and 5(b):

"(i) **OUTLYING AREA.**—The term 'outlying area' means the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

"(ii) **STATE.**—The term 'State' does not include the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

"(15) **TARGETED INDIVIDUALS.**—The term 'targeted individuals' means—

"(A) individuals with disabilities of all ages and their family members, guardians, advocates, and authorized representatives;

"(B) individuals who work for public or private entities (including insurers or managed care providers), that have contact with individuals with disabilities;

"(C) educators and related services personnel;

"(D) technology experts (including engineers);

"(E) health and allied health professionals;

"(F) employers; and

"(G) other appropriate individuals and entities.

"(16) **TECHNOLOGY-RELATED ASSISTANCE.**—The term 'technology-related assistance' means assistance provided through capacity building and advocacy activities that accomplish the purposes described in any of subparagraphs (A) through (G) of section 2(b)(1).

"(17) **UNDERREPRESENTED POPULATION.**—The term 'underrepresented population' means a population that is typically underrepresented in service provision, and includes populations such as persons who have low-incidence disabilities, persons who are minorities, poor persons, persons with limited-English proficiency, older individuals, or persons from rural areas.

"(18) **UNIVERSAL DESIGN.**—The term 'universal design' means a concept or philosophy for designing and delivering products and services that are usable by people with the widest possible range of functional capabilities, which include products and services that are directly usable (without requiring assistive technologies) and products and services that are made usable with assistive technologies.

"SEC. 4. GRANTS TO STATES FOR PURCHASE OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY DEVICES AND ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES.

"(a) **GRANTS TO STATES.**—The Secretary shall award grants, in accordance with this section, to States to maintain comprehensive statewide programs of technology related assistance to support programs that

are designed to maximize the ability of individuals with disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates, and authorized representatives to obtain assistive technology devices and assistive technology services.

“(b) USE OF FUNDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—

“(A) REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.—Except as provided in subparagraph (C), any State that receives a grant under this section shall use a portion of the funds made available through the grant to carry out the activities described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (2).

“(B) DISCRETIONARY ACTIVITIES.—Any State that receives a grant under this section may use the funds made available through the grant to carry out the activities described in subparagraph (C) or (D) of paragraph (2).

“(C) SPECIAL RULE.—Any State in which financial support for the activities described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (2) is provided from State or other resources shall not be required to expend the funds provided under the grant to carry out the activities described in subparagraph (A) or (B), as the case may be. Such financial support shall be comparable to the amount of the grant the State would otherwise have expended for such activities.

“(2) STATE-LEVEL ACTIVITIES.—

“(A) STATE FINANCE SYSTEMS.—The State shall support activities to increase access to, and funding for, assistive technology devices and assistive technology services, including the development of systems to provide assistive technology devices and assistive technology services to individuals with disabilities of all ages, and that pay for such devices and services, such as—

“(i) the development of systems for the purchase, lease, other acquisition, or payment for the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services; or

“(ii) the establishment of alternative State or privately funded systems of subsidies for the provision of assistive technology devices or assistive technology services, such as—

“(I) a low-interest loan fund;

“(II) an interest buy-down program;

“(III) a revolving loan fund;

“(IV) a loan guarantee or insurance program;

“(V) a program operated by a partnership among private entities for the purchase, lease, or other acquisition of assistive technology devices or assistive technology services; or

“(VI) another mechanism approved by the Secretary.

“(B) DEVICE LOAN PROGRAMS.—The State shall directly, or in collaboration with public or private entities, carry out device loan programs that support the short-term loan of assistive technology devices to individuals, employers, public agencies, public accommodations, or others seeking to meet the needs of targeted individuals, including to comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

“(C) DEVICE REUTILIZATION PROGRAMS.—The State shall directly, or in collaboration with public or private entities, carry out assistive technology device reutilization programs that provide for the exchange, recycling, or other reutilization of assistive technology devices, which may include redistribution through device and equipment loans, rentals, or gifts.

“(D) DEVICE DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.—The State shall directly, or in collaboration with public or private entities, carry out assistive technology device demonstration programs that provide for the ability of tar-

geted individuals to learn about the use and operation of assistive technology devices.

“(3) STATE LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Any State that receives a grant under this section may use up to 40 percent of the funds made available through the grant to carry out the activities described in subparagraph (B).

“(B) REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.—The State shall support—

“(i) public awareness activities designed to provide information to targeted individuals relating to the availability and benefits of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services, including—

“(I) the development and dissemination of information relating to—

“(aa) the nature of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services;

“(bb) the appropriateness of, cost of, availability of, evaluation of, and access to, assistive technology devices and assistive technology services; and

“(cc) the benefits of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services with respect to enhancing the capacity of individuals with disabilities of all ages to perform activities of daily living;

“(II) the development of procedures for providing direct communication between providers of assistive technology and targeted individuals, which may include partnerships with the State and local workforce investment system established under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, State vocational rehabilitation centers, public and private employers, or elementary and secondary public schools; and

“(III) the development and dissemination, to targeted individuals, of information about State efforts related to assistive technology; and

“(IV) the distribution of materials to appropriate public and private agencies that provide social, medical, educational, employment, and transportation services to individuals with disabilities.

“(i) technical assistance and training on—

“(I) the development of training materials and the conduct of training in the use of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services;

“(II) providing technical assistance, including technical assistance concerning how—

“(aa) to consider the needs of an individual with a disability for assistive technology devices and assistive technology services in developing any individualized plan or program authorized under Federal or State law; and

“(bb) to increase consumer participation regarding assistive technology devices and assistive technology services; and

“(III) the enhancement of the assistive technology skills and competencies of—

“(aa) individuals who work for public or private entities (including insurers and managed care providers), who have contact with individuals with disabilities;

“(bb) educators and related services personnel;

“(cc) technology experts (including engineers);

“(dd) health and allied health professionals;

“(ee) employers; and

“(ff) other appropriate personnel; and

“(iii) outreach and support to statewide and community-based organizations that provide assistive technology devices and assistive technology services to individuals with disabilities or that assist individuals with disabilities in using assistive technology devices and assistive technology services, including a focus on organizations assisting individuals from underrepresented populations and rural populations, and further including support such as outreach to

consumer organizations and groups in the State to coordinate efforts to assist individuals with disabilities of all ages and their family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives, to obtain funding for, access to, and information on evaluation of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services.

“(C) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—The State may support the operation and administration of the activities in paragraph (2), through interagency coordination to develop and promote the adoption of policies that improve access to assistive technology devices and assistive technology services for individuals with disabilities of all ages in the State and that result in improved coordination among public and private entities that are responsible or have the authority to be responsible, for policies, procedures, or funding for, or the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services to, such individuals.

“(4) INDIRECT COSTS.—Not more than 10 percent of the funds made available through a grant to a State under this section may be used for indirect costs.

“(5) PROHIBITION.—Funds made available through a grant to a State under this section shall not be used for direct payment for an assistive technology device for an individual with a disability.

“(6) STATE FLEXIBILITY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1)(A) and subject to subparagraph (B), a State may use funds that it receives under a grant under this section to carry out any of the activities described in paragraph (2).

“(B) SPECIAL RULE.—Notwithstanding paragraph (3)(A), any State which exercises its authority under subparagraph (A) may not use more than 30 percent of the funds made available through the grant to carry out the activities described in paragraph (3)(B).

“(C) AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

“(1) GRANTS TO OUTLYING AREAS.—From the funds appropriated under section 8(a) for any fiscal year for grants under this section, the Secretary shall make a grant in an amount of not more than \$105,000 to each eligible outlying area.

“(2) GRANTS TO STATES.—From the funds described in paragraph (1) that are not used to make grants under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall make grants to States in accordance with the requirements described in paragraph (3).

“(3) CALCULATION OF STATE GRANTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall allocate funds to each State for a fiscal year in an amount that bears the same ratio as the population of the State bears to the population of all States.

“(B) MINIMUM ALLOTMENT.—A State shall receive an amount under a grant for a fiscal year that is not less than the amount the State received under the grant provided under title I of this Act (as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Improving Access to Assistive Technology for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 2004) for fiscal year 2004.

“(C) RATABLE REDUCTIONS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—If amounts made available to carry out this section for any fiscal year are insufficient to meet the minimum allotment requirement for each State under subparagraph (B) for such fiscal year, the Secretary shall ratably reduce such amounts for such fiscal year.

“(ii) ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—If additional funds become available for making payments described under this subsection for any such fiscal year, the amounts that were reduced under clause (i) shall be increased on the same basis as such amounts were reduced.

“(d) LEAD AGENCY.—

“(1) DESIGNATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, the Governor of the State shall designate in accordance with paragraph (2) a lead agency to administer the grant under this section.

“(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—For purposes of paragraph (1), the Governor of the State may designate one of the following:

“(A) The State agency responsible for the administration of vocational rehabilitation in the State.

“(B) A commission, council, or other official body appointed by the Governor.

“(C) A public-private partnership or consortium.

“(D) A public agency (including the office of the Governor, a State oversight office, a State agency, a public institution of higher education, or other public entity).

“(E) A council established under Federal or State law.

“(F) An organization described in section 501(c)(3) of Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of that Act.

“(G) Another appropriate office, agency, entity, or organization.

“(3) DUTIES OF THE LEAD AGENCY.—The duties of the lead agency shall include—

“(A) submitting the application described in subsection (e) on behalf of the State;

“(B) administering and supervising the use of amounts made available under the grant received by the State under this section;

“(C) (i) coordinating efforts related to, and supervising the preparation of, the application described in subsection (e);

“(ii) coordinating, maintaining, and evaluating the comprehensive statewide program of technology-related assistance among public agencies and between public agencies and private entities, including coordinating efforts related to entering into interagency agreements; and

“(iii) coordinating efforts, especially efforts carried out with entities that provide protection and advocacy services described in section 5, related to the active, timely, and meaningful participation by individuals with disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates, or authorized representatives, and other appropriate individuals, with respect to activities carried out under the grant;

“(D) delegating, in whole or in part, any responsibilities described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) to one or more appropriate offices, agencies, entities, or individuals; and

“(E) establishing a partnership or partnerships with private providers of social, medical, educational, employment, and transportation services to individuals with disabilities.

“(4) CHANGE IN LEAD AGENCY.—The Governor may change the lead agency of the State (to an agency other than the lead agency of the State as of the date of the enactment of the Improving Access to Assistive Technology for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 2004) if the Governor provides a justification in the application to the Secretary for such action. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require the Governor of a State to change the lead agency of the State to an agency other than the lead agency of such State as of the date of the enactment of the Improving Access to Assistive Technology for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 2004.

“(e) STATE APPLICATION.—

“(1) SUBMISSION.—Any State that desires to receive a grant under this section shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time and in such manner as the Secretary may specify.

“(2) CONTENT.—Each application shall contain, at a minimum, the following information:

“(A) PLANNED ACTIVITIES.—A description of those activities described in subsection (b)(2) that the State will carry out under the grant.

“(B) MEASURABLE GOALS.—A description of—

“(i) the measurable goals the State has set for addressing the assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities in the State, including any measurable goals, and a timeline for meeting such goals, related to—

“(I) education, including goals involving the provision of assistive technology to individuals with disabilities that receive services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act;

“(II) employment, including goals involving the State vocational rehabilitation program carried out under title I of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973;

“(III) telecommunication and information technology; and

“(IV) community living; and

“(ii) how the State will quantifiably measure the goals to determine whether the goals have been achieved.

“(C) INVOLVEMENT OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES OF ALL AGES AND THEIR FAMILIES.—A description of how individuals with disabilities of all ages and their families—

“(i) were involved in selecting—

“(I) the goals;

“(II) the activities to be undertaken in achieving the goals; and

“(III) the measures to be used in judging if the goals have been achieved; and

“(ii) will be involved in measuring whether the goals have been achieved.

“(D) STATE SUPPORT.—A description of those activities described in subsection (b)(2) that the State will support under the grant, including at a minimum the State's plans to provide financial support, consistent with subsection (b)(1), for the activities described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of such subsection.

“(E) ASSURANCE.—An assurance that the physical location of the entity responsible for conducting the State activities under this Act meets the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 regarding accessibility for individuals with disabilities.

“(F) OTHER INFORMATION.—Such other information as the Secretary may reasonably require.

“SEC. 5. GRANTS TO STATES FOR PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY RELATED TO ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY.

“(a) GRANTS TO STATES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make a grant to an entity in each State to support protection and advocacy services through the systems established to provide protection and advocacy services under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act (42 U.S.C. 6000 et seq.) for the purposes of assisting in the acquisition, utilization, or maintenance of assistive technology or assistive technology services for individuals with disabilities.

“(2) SPECIAL RULE.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), for a State that, on the day before the date of the enactment of the Improving Access to Assistive Technology for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 2004, was described in section 102(a)(2) of this Act, the Secretary shall make the grant to the lead agency designated under section 4(d). The lead agency shall determine how the funds made available under this section shall be divided among the entities that were providing protection and advocacy services in that State on that day, and distribute the funds to the entities. In distributing the funds, the lead agency shall not establish any further eligibility or procedural requirements for an entity in that State that supports protection

and advocacy services through the systems established to provide protection and advocacy services under the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15001 et seq.). Such an entity shall comply with the same requirements (including reporting and enforcement requirements) as any other entity that received funding under paragraph (1).

“(b) AMOUNT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

“(1) GRANTS TO OUTLYING AREAS AND AMERICAN INDIAN CONSORTIUM.—

“(A) OUTLYING AREAS.—From the funds appropriated under section 8(b) for any fiscal year, the Secretary shall make a grant in an amount of not more than \$30,000 to each eligible system within an outlying area.

“(B) AMERICAN INDIAN CONSORTIUM.—From the funds appropriated under section 8(b) for any fiscal year, the Secretary shall make a grant in an amount of not more than \$30,000 to the American Indian Consortium to provide services in the same manner as an eligible system described under this section. If the amount appropriated under section 8(b) for a fiscal year exceeds the amount appropriated under such section for the preceding fiscal year, then the amount referred to in the preceding sentence shall be increased for such fiscal year by the same percentage as such amount appropriated under section 8(b) exceeds the amount appropriated under such section for the preceding fiscal year.

“(2) GRANTS TO STATES.—For any fiscal year, after reserving funds to make grants under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall make allotments from the remainder of the funds in accordance with paragraph (3) to eligible systems within States to support protection and advocacy services as described in subsection (a). The Secretary shall make grants to the eligible systems from the allotments.

“(3) SYSTEMS WITHIN STATES.—

“(A) POPULATION BASIS.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), from such remainder for each fiscal year, the Secretary shall make an allotment to the eligible system within a State of an amount bearing the same ratio to such remainder as the population of the State bears to the population of all States.

“(B) MINIMUMS.—Subject to the availability of appropriations to carry out this section, the allotment to any system under subparagraph (A) shall be not less than \$50,000, and the allotment to any system under this paragraph for any fiscal year that is less than \$50,000 shall be increased to \$50,000.

“(4) REALLOTMENT.—Whenever the Secretary determines that any amount of an allotment under paragraph (3) to a system within a State for any fiscal year will not be expended by such system in carrying out the provisions of this section, the Secretary shall make such amount available for carrying out the provisions of this section to all other systems in the same proportion such amounts were first allocated to such systems.

“(5) CARRYOVER.—Any amount paid to an eligible system for a fiscal year under this section that remains unobligated at the end of such fiscal year shall remain available to such system for obligation during the subsequent fiscal year, except that program income generated from such amount shall remain available for two additional fiscal years and may only be used to improve the awareness of individuals with disabilities on the accessibility of assistive technology and assisting such individuals in the acquisition, utilization, or maintenance of assistive technology or assistive technology services.

“(c) REPORT TO SECRETARY.—An entity that receives a grant under this section shall

annually prepare and submit to the Secretary a report that contains such information as the Secretary may require, including documentation of the progress of the entity in—

“(1) conducting consumer-responsive activities, including activities that will lead to increased access, for individuals with disabilities, to funding for assistive technology devices and assistive technology services;

“(2) engaging in informal advocacy to assist in securing assistive technology and assistive technology services for individuals with disabilities;

“(3) engaging in formal representation for individuals with disabilities to secure systems change, and in advocacy activities to secure assistive technology and assistive technology services for individuals with disabilities;

“(4) developing and implementing strategies to enhance the long-term abilities of individuals with disabilities and their family members, guardians, advocates, and authorized representatives to advocate the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services to which the individuals with disabilities are entitled under law other than this Act;

“(5) coordinating activities with protection and advocacy services funded through sources other than this Act, and coordinating activities with the capacity building and advocacy activities carried out by the lead agency; and

“(6) effectively allocating carryover funds described in subsection (b)(5) to improve the awareness of individuals with disabilities on the accessibility of assistive technology and assisting them in the acquisition, utilization, or maintenance of assistive technology or assistive technology services.

“(d) **REPORTS AND UPDATES TO STATE AGENCIES.**—An entity that receives a grant under this section shall prepare and submit to the lead agency the report described in subsection (c) and quarterly updates concerning the activities described in subsection (c).

“(e) **COORDINATION.**—On making a grant under this section to an entity in a State, the Secretary shall solicit and consider the opinions of the lead agency of the State designated under section 4(d) with respect to efforts at coordination, collaboration, and promoting outcomes between the lead agency and the entity that receives the grant under this section.

“SEC. 6. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

“(a) **GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Rehabilitation Services Administration in the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services of the Department of Education shall be responsible for the administration of this Act.

“(b) **REVIEW OF PARTICIPATING ENTITIES.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall assess the extent to which entities that receive grants pursuant to this Act are complying with the applicable requirements of this Act and achieving the quantifiable, measurable goals that are consistent with the requirements of the grant programs under which the entities applied for the grants.

“(2) **PROVISION OF INFORMATION.**—To assist the Secretary in carrying out the responsibilities of the Secretary under this section, the Secretary may require States to provide relevant information, including the information required under subsection (d).

“(c) **CORRECTIVE ACTION AND SANCTIONS.**—

“(1) **CORRECTIVE ACTION.**—If the Secretary determines that an entity fails to substantially comply with the requirements of this Act or to substantially make progress towards meeting the goals established under section 4(e)(2)(B) with respect to a grant pro-

gram, the Secretary shall assist the entity through technical assistance funded under section 7 or other means, within 90 days after such determination, to develop a corrective action plan.

“(2) **SANCTIONS.**—An entity that fails to develop and comply with a corrective action plan as described in paragraph (1) during a fiscal year shall be subject to one of the following corrective actions selected by the Secretary:

“(A) Partial or complete withholding of funds under the grant program until such plan is developed and implemented.

“(B) Reduction in the amount of funding that may be used for indirect costs under section 4(b)(4) for the following year under the grant program.

“(C) Required redesignation of the lead agency designated under section 4(d) or an entity responsible for administering the grant program.

“(3) **APPEALS PROCEDURES.**—The Secretary shall establish appeals procedures for entities that are found to be in noncompliance with the requirements of this Act or have not substantially made progress towards meeting the goals established under section 4(e)(2)(B).

“(4) **SECRETARIAL ACTION.**—As part of the annual report required under subsection (d), the Secretary shall describe each such action taken under paragraph (1) or (2) and the outcomes of each such action.

“(5) **PUBLIC NOTIFICATION.**—The Secretary shall notify the public by posting on the Internet website of the Department of Education of each action taken by the Secretary under paragraph (1) or (2). As a part of such notification, the Secretary shall describe each such action taken under paragraph (1) or (2) and the outcomes of each such action.

“(d) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than December 31 of each year, the Secretary shall prepare, and submit to the President and to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, a report on the activities funded under this Act to improve the access of individuals with disabilities to assistive technology devices and assistive technology services.

“(2) **CONTENTS.**—Such report shall include information on—

“(A) the type of alternative financing mechanisms used by each State under the program;

“(B) the amount and type of assistance given to consumers (who shall be classified by age, type of disability, type of assistive technology device or assistive technology service financed through the program, geographic distribution within the State, gender, and whether the consumers are part of an underrepresented population or rural population), including—

“(i) the number of applications for assistance received;

“(ii) the number of applications approved and rejected;

“(iii) the default rate;

“(iv) the range and average interest rate;

“(v) the range and average income of approved loan applicants; and

“(vi) the types and dollar amounts of assistive technology financed;

“(C) the number, type, and length of time of loans of assistive technology devices provided to individuals with disabilities, employers, public agencies, or public accommodations, including an analysis of the individuals with disabilities who have benefited from the device loan program;

“(D) the number, type, estimated value, and scope of device reutilization programs, including an analysis of the individuals with

disabilities that have benefited from the device loan program;

“(E) the number and type of equipment demonstrations provided, including an analysis of individuals with disabilities who have benefited from the program;

“(F) a summary of the State plans and annual reports submitted by the States, including an analysis of the progress of the States in meeting their goals established in the State application;

“(G) the number of individuals who received training and the topics of such training;

“(H) the frequency and nature of technical assistance provided to State and local governmental agencies and other entities; and

“(I) the outcomes of interagency coordination and collaboration activities carried out by the State, as applicable, that support access to assistive technology including the type, purpose, and source of leveraged funding or other contributed resources from public and private entities.

“(e) **EFFECT ON OTHER ASSISTANCE.**—This Act may not be construed as authorizing a Federal or a State agency to reduce medical or other assistance available, or to alter eligibility for a benefit or service, under any other Federal law.

“SEC. 7. NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Through grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements, awarded on a competitive basis, the Secretary is authorized to provide technical assistance to entities, principally entities funded under section 4 or 5.

“(b) **INPUT.**—In designing the program to be funded under this section, and in deciding the differences in function between national and regionally based technical assistance efforts carried out through the program, the Secretary shall consider the input of the directors of comprehensive statewide programs of technology-related assistance and other individuals the Secretary determines to be appropriate, especially—

“(1) individuals with disabilities who use assistive technology and understand the barriers to the acquisition of such technology and assistive technology services;

“(2) family members, guardians, advocates, and authorized representatives of such individuals; and

“(3) individuals employed by protection and advocacy systems funded under section 5.

“(c) **AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.**—The Secretary shall support activities designed to maximize the impact and benefit of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services for individuals with disabilities, including the following activities:

“(1) **NATIONAL PUBLIC INTERNET SITE.**—

“(A) **ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNET SITE.**—The Secretary shall fund the establishment and maintenance of a National Public Internet Site for the purposes of providing to individuals with disabilities and the general public technical assistance and information on increased access to assistive technology devices, assistive technology services, and other disability-related resources.

“(B) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—To be eligible to receive a grant or enter into a contract or cooperative agreement under subsection (a) to establish and maintain the Internet site, an entity shall be an institution of higher education that emphasizes research and engineering, has a multidisciplinary research center, and has demonstrated expertise in—

“(i) working with assistive technology and intelligent agent interactive information dissemination systems;

“(ii) managing libraries of assistive technology and disability-related resources;

“(iii) delivering education, information, and referral services to individuals with disabilities, including technology-based curriculum development services for adults with low-level reading skills;

“(iv) developing cooperative partnerships with the private sector, particularly with private sector computer software, hardware, and Internet services entities; and

“(v) developing and designing advanced Internet sites.

“(C) FEATURES OF INTERNET SITE.—The National Public Internet Site described in subparagraph (A) shall contain the following features:

“(i) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION AT ANY TIME.—The site shall be designed so that any member of the public may obtain information posted on the site at any time.

“(ii) INNOVATIVE AUTOMATED INTELLIGENT AGENT.—The site shall be constructed with an innovative automated intelligent agent that is a diagnostic tool for assisting users in problem definition and the selection of appropriate assistive technology devices and assistive technology services resources.

“(iii) RESOURCES.—

“(I) LIBRARY ON ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY.—The site shall include access to a comprehensive working library on assistive technology for all environments, including home, workplace, transportation, and other environments.

“(II) RESOURCES FOR A NUMBER OF DISABILITIES.—The site shall include resources relating to the largest possible number of disabilities, including resources relating to low-level reading skills.

“(iv) LINKS TO PRIVATE SECTOR RESOURCES AND INFORMATION.—To the extent feasible, the site shall be linked to relevant private sector resources and information, under agreements developed between the institution of higher education and cooperating private sector entities.

“(D) MINIMUM LIBRARY COMPONENTS.—At a minimum, the Internet site shall maintain updated information on—

“(i) how to plan, develop, implement, and evaluate activities to further extend comprehensive statewide programs of technology-related assistance, including the development and replication of effective approaches to—

“(I) providing information and referral services;

“(II) promoting interagency coordination of training and service delivery among public and private entities;

“(III) conducting outreach to underrepresented populations and rural populations;

“(IV) mounting successful public awareness activities;

“(V) improving capacity building in service delivery;

“(VI) training personnel from a variety of disciplines; and

“(VII) improving evaluation strategies, research, and data collection;

“(ii) effective approaches to the development of consumer-controlled systems that increase access to, funding for, and awareness of, assistive technology devices and assistive technology services;

“(iii) successful approaches to increasing the availability of public and private funding for and access to the provision of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services by appropriate State agencies; and

“(iv) demonstration sites where individuals may try out assistive technology.

“(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE EFFORTS.—The Secretary shall, on a competitive basis, make grants to, or enter into cooperative agreements with, eligible entities—

“(A) to address State-specific information requests concerning assistive technology from other entities funded under this Act

and public entities not funded under this Act, including—

“(i) requests for state-of-the-art, or model, Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, policies, practices, procedures, and organizational structures, that facilitate, and overcome barriers to, funding for, and access to, assistive technology devices and assistive technology services;

“(ii) requests for examples of policies, practices, procedures, regulations, or judicial decisions that have enhanced or may enhance access to funding for assistive technology devices and assistive technology services for individuals with disabilities;

“(iii) requests for information on effective approaches to Federal-State coordination of programs for individuals with disabilities, related to improving funding for or access to assistive technology devices and assistive technology services for individuals with disabilities of all ages;

“(iv) requests for information on effective approaches to the development of consumer-controlled systems that increase access to, funding for, and awareness of, assistive technology devices and assistive technology services;

“(v) other requests for technical assistance from other entities funded under this Act and public entities not funded under this Act; and

“(vi) other assignments specified by the Secretary, including assisting entities described in section 6(b) to develop corrective action plans; and

“(B) to assist targeted individuals by disseminating information about—

“(i) Federal, State, and local laws, regulations, policies, practices, procedures, and organizational structures, that facilitate, and overcome barriers to, funding for, and access to, assistive technology devices and assistive technology services, to promote fuller independence, productivity, and inclusion in society for individuals with disabilities of all ages; and

“(ii) technical assistance activities undertaken under subparagraph (A).

“(d) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to compete for grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements under this section, entities shall have documented experience with and expertise in assistive technology service delivery or systems, interagency coordination, and capacity building and advocacy activities.

“(e) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under this section, an entity shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

“SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“(a) STATE GRANTS FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY; NATIONAL ACTIVITIES.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out sections 4 and 7 of this Act \$21,524,000 for fiscal year 2005 and such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2006 through 2010. Of the amount appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations under this subsection for a fiscal year, not more than \$1,235,000 may be made available to carry out section 7 of this Act.

“(b) STATE GRANTS FOR PROTECTION AND ADVOCACY.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 5 of this Act \$4,419,000 for fiscal year 2005 and such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2006 through 2010.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4278.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Delaware?

There was no objection.

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4278, the Improving Access to Assistive Technology For Individuals With Disabilities Act of 2004.

This legislation reauthorizes and reforms the Assistive Technology Act, which was created in 1988. Since then the Federal Government has played an important role in helping States develop systems to provide access to assistive technology devices and services for individuals with disabilities.

The original intent of this program was to provide seed money to establish statewide systems to help individuals with disabilities access assistive technology. Since then, all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the outlying areas have established systems of some design and scope.

In 1998, we added the alternative financing program as a competitive grant program and we have seen many States make wonderful progress in expanding the opportunities made available to individuals with disabilities.

The original law contained a sunset provision in which the funding for these deficits would expire after 10 years. However, the program has continued to receive funds for the past 6 years since the initial 10 years were completed. These funds are now running out, and it is necessary to reauthorize this act to ensure that these programs continue to meet the needs of individuals with disabilities.

The Federal funds distributed to States over the last 16 years have allowed States to set up the needed infrastructure to support assistive technology systems. To continue the success of the assistive technology programs and to ensure that Federal money is used to best provide services to individuals with disabilities, significant reform of the Assistive Technology Act is needed.

This bill shifts the focus of the program to provide greater direct benefit to individuals with disabilities. Our goal is to help States get more assistive technology directly into the hands of the individuals with disabilities. This new focus expands the reach of the State programs by moving away from support of administration activities and emphasizing the importance of getting the technology itself to the individuals with disabilities that need it.

I know that this will help States continue to make progress in their efforts

to expand access to assistive technology and that increasing numbers of individuals with disabilities will be able to participate in society more fully every day.

Although we are refocusing the program, we certainly recognize the importance of State flexibility, and our bill maintains that important element of this program.

We direct States to focus their efforts to putting the technology into the hands of individuals with disabilities, but allow them the freedom to decide how they would go about that and which efforts will work best in their State to accomplish that goal.

States have two options in regard to their expenditures of Federal funds. In one option States could allocate 70 percent of the resources to State level activities and spend no more than 30 percent on State level activities. State level activities are more focused on directly giving individuals with disabilities assistive technology access and services, while State leadership activities are more administrative. Under this option, the States would have full flexibility to select the activities in each category that they would support.

In the other option, States would choose to spend 60 percent of the resources on State level activities and no more than 40 percent on State leadership activities. However, the State would be required to support two particular State level activities, the alternative financing program and the device loan program. I believe that the increased focus on State level activities coupled with the State flexibility will drastically improve the program and the assistance in services it provides to individuals with disabilities.

I am pleased with the changes that H.R. 4278 makes to the Assistive Technology Act, and I believe they will greatly improve the lives of those affected by a disability. In crafting this legislation, we worked with our friends across the aisle, our friends in the disability community, and our State directors. I believe we have come up with a creative proposal that will give States significant flexibility while also ensuring that the focus of the program does shift in the right direction. The reforms we have crafted in this bill respond to the concerns of the critics of this program, and it will place the program on solid footing for continued and future success.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) and his staff for the long hours that have gone into this process so far. I would also like to thank the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. RAMSTAD) and the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) for their support of this important legislation. As co-chairs of the Disability Caucus, they know the importance of this legislation and we are glad to have their support today. I am very pleased with this bill, and I am glad to say we have been able to come together in a bipartisan way to improve this important program.

I would also like to thank our friends in the disability community for working with us so diligently throughout this process. Your support for this legislation is valued, and it is important that this has been such an open and deliberative process.

I strongly support H.R. 4278, the Improving Access for Individuals With Disabilities Act of 2004, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4278. The bill is a culmination of many months of bipartisan efforts to reauthorize the Assistive Technology Act.

This law is an important component in ensuring that individuals with disabilities can access assistive technology to attend school, to maintain employment, and to live independently.

As Members know, this bill is critically needed. This legislation finally ensures that States grant programs can count on a stable source of Federal funds to support their operations. The last reauthorization of the Assistive Technology Act in 1998 sunset the State grant program. For the past 3 years, many States have wondered whether a certain year would be the last year of Federal funding. This bill erases this doubt by ensuring that all States will be eligible for funding through 2010.

I want to mention the inclusion of the American Indian Consortium as a funded protection and advocacy system under this legislation. Individuals with disabilities in Indian Country are some of the most disadvantaged when it comes to the ability to access assistive technology. This bill will provide resources to this consortium to ensure the needs of Native Americans seeking assistive technology are represented.

This provision alone will have a tremendously positive impact on Indian Country. The momentum behind this bill would not have been possible without a real bipartisan effort to move this bill. I want to thank particularly the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), the gentleman from California (Mr. McKEON), and the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE), its former governor, for his hard work on this bill, and I want to thank their staffs for working closely with my staff.

We have truly created a bill that will improve the ability of individuals with disabilities to access assistive technology. This legislation is an excellent example of what we can accomplish if we put our efforts into working together.

Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, before I yield back the balance of my time, I would like to thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE). I do not work with him as much as I used to but he has always been wonderful to work with. A lot of the work on this bill, as the gentleman and I both know, was done by the gentleman from California (Mr. McKEON), who deserves a tremendous amount of the credit for bringing this together. But the gentleman from Michigan's (Mr. KILDEE) help and that of the amiable gentleman from California (Mr. McKEON) is tremendous in pulling together partisan interests and differing interests and bringing them together to allow legislation like this to move forward.

I would encourage all of the Members to support it.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, technology has become tremendously important in everyone's daily lives, but there are perhaps few places where technology plays as important a role in an individual's daily life than for individuals with disabilities.

That is why I am pleased to be a cosponsor and strong supporter of the Improving Access to Assistive Technology for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 2004, considered in the House of Representatives today.

Assistive technology devices and adaptations are critical to ensuring that individuals with disabilities can live with independence and pursue work, education, communication and other aspects of daily living.

Since the Assistive Technology Act was enacted in 1998, assistive technology state grants have provided funds to states to start-up and establish systems for distributing assistive technology devices and services. States have since made significant progress in building and improving these systems. The Maryland Technology Assistance Program, for example, provides a low-interest loan program to help people gain access to and afford critical technologies.

The previous authorization originally included a sunset provision to phase out the state assistance grants. However, as it has become clear that technology was increasingly important and that this program provided crucial assistance, support has grown to make this program permanent.

I am pleased that over the past several years, we have been able to include language in the Labor-HHS-Education bill to waive the sunset provision and adequate funding, so that states would not have to eliminate their programs.

With this important reauthorization bill, we will no longer have to include this language on an annual basis, and individuals with disabilities can be confident that this program will continue to provide states with needed assistance.

I am also pleased that this bill has been written to revise the program with greater focus on providing direct benefits to individuals with disabilities.

I hope all of my colleagues will support this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4278, the Improving Access to Assistive Technology for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 2004, and thank the gentleman from California (Mr. McKEON) for his work.

The legislation before us today is key to helping thousands of individuals across the country gain access to assistive technology devices and services.

The use of assistive technology can help a child attend school, an adult seek and maintain employment, and individuals of all ages with disabilities participate more fully in society. Every day, the lives of countless individuals with disabilities are made better through access to assistive technology. Assistive technology helps individuals meet the challenges they face every day, and through the use of assistive technology individuals with disabilities can overcome almost any obstacle they face.

With initial passage of the Assistive Technology Act, and past reauthorizations, the job of the state AT projects was one of information and outreach, making people aware of technology options. This reauthorization focuses on how we can enhance these services. However, this legislation by encouraging AT projects across the country to build on other success stories across we can help more people with disabilities to learn, work, and be active participants in their community. One key way H.R. 4278 accomplishes this is through an increased focus on helping individuals actually acquire the assistive technologies that greatly improve their quality of life.

I am particularly proud of the AT work done in Delaware. The Delaware Assistive Technology Initiative connects Delawareans with the technologies that provide many with the opportunity to learn, work, play, and participate in community life safely and independently. Delawareans with disabilities count on the Initiative for access to technology for product demonstration and trial use, for information and consultation about equipment and funding resources, and for the coordination of resources among agencies and organizations. The Initiative runs a used equipment exchange service, publishes an informative newsletter, and helps people connect with the appropriate technology, financial assistance, and skills training. The Initiative has no eligibility limitations, other than Delaware residency. It serves infants through older persons, and addresses the needs of people with any type of disabling condition. There is no other source in Delaware that could replace these services and supports. The staff, and their counterparts in other states, are intimately familiar with the barriers that people with disabilities still encounter relative to employment, education, and community living. Assistive technology and universal design are often keys to access, opportunity, and achievement in all of these arenas, and the Improving Access to Assistive Technology for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 2004 will help to ensure that access leads to opportunity, and that opportunity results in enhanced employment, academic achievement, and community life.

I urge my colleagues to support this reauthorization.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4278, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof)

the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT KATHERINE DUNHAM BE RECOGNIZED FOR HER GROUNDBREAKING ACHIEVEMENTS IN DANCE, THEATER, MUSIC, AND EDUCATION, AS WELL AS HER WORK AS AN ACTIVIST STRIVING FOR RACIAL EQUALITY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 62) expressing the sense of Congress that Katherine Dunham should be recognized for her groundbreaking achievements in dance, theater, music, and education, as well as for her work as an activist striving for racial equality throughout the world.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 62

Whereas Katherine Dunham was born on June 22, 1909, and began formal dance training in her late teens;

Whereas, in the 1930s, Katherine Dunham revolutionized American dance by incorporating the roots of black dance and ritual, and by transforming these elements into choreography accessible to all through the Katherine Dunham Technique;

Whereas Katherine Dunham completed her bachelor's degree in social anthropology at the University of Chicago, was a pioneer in the use of folk and ethnic choreography, and was one of the founders of the anthropological dance movement;

Whereas Katherine Dunham utilized her dance career and public status to draw attention to issues of segregation and the civil rights movement;

Whereas Katherine Dunham founded Les Ballet Negre in 1931, the first black ballet company in the United States;

Whereas Les Ballet Negre became known as the Katherine Dunham Dance Company, touring in more than 60 countries during the 1940s;

Whereas Katherine Dunham was a dancer, choreographer, and director on Broadway, and was the first black choreographer at the Metropolitan Opera;

Whereas, in 1945, Katherine Dunham founded the Dunham School of Dance and Theatre in Manhattan, thereby providing a centralized location for students to immerse themselves in dance technique while also studying topics in the humanities, languages, ethics, philosophy, and drama;

Whereas, in 1967, Katherine Dunham established the Performing Arts Training Center in East St. Louis, Missouri, which enrolled high-risk youth into its programs in fine, performing, and cultural arts;

Whereas Katherine Dunham founded the Katherine Dunham Centers for Arts and Humanities in 1969, and the Katherine Dunham Museum and Children's Workshop in 1977;

Whereas Katherine Dunham went on a 47-day hunger strike in 1993 to call attention to the welfare of Haitians, thereby shifting public opinion concerning the United States' relations with Haiti, and helping to precipitate the return of Haiti's first democratically elected president;

Whereas Katherine Dunham has received 10 honorary doctorates and numerous awards, including the Presidential Medal of Arts, the

French Legion of Honor, the NAACP's Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Kennedy Center Honor's Award; and

Whereas Katherine Dunham continues to be an activist, teacher, and mentor to young people throughout the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that Katherine Dunham should be recognized for her work as a teacher, dancer, choreographer, and actress, for her dedication to improving the opportunities in the arts that are available to the Nation's youth, and for her lifelong commitment to humanitarian causes around the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 62.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Delaware?

There was no objection.

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 62. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation which expresses the sense of Congress that Katherine Dunham should be recognized for her groundbreaking achievements in dance, theater, music, and education, as well as for her work as an activist striving for racial equality throughout the world.

Katherine Dunham has been called the matriarch of black dance. Her unprecedented blend of cultural anthropology with the artistic genre of dance in the early 1930s produced groundbreaking forms of movement and in the United States established black dance as an art form in its own right.

She was born on June 22, 1909 and began formal dance training in her late teens. She completed her Bachelor's Degree in social anthropology at the University of Chicago, was a pioneer in the use of folk and ethnic choreography, and was one of the founders of the Anthropological Dance Movement.

Katherine Dunham utilized her dance career and public status to draw attention to issues of segregation and the civil rights movement. In 1945, Katherine Dunham founded the Dunham School of Dance and Theater in Manhattan, thereby providing a centralized location for students to immerse themselves in dance technique while also studying topics in the humanities, languages, ethics, philosophy and drama.

In 1967, Katherine Dunham established a performing arts training center in East St. Louis, Missouri, which enrolled high risk youth into its program in fine, performing and cultural arts.

In 1993, she went on a 47-day hunger strike to call attention to the welfare of Haitians, thereby shifting public opinion concerning the United States public relations with Haiti, and helping to precipitate the return of Haiti's first democratically elected President.

□ 1715

During her career Katherine Dunham was a dancer, choreographer and a director on Broadway and was the first black choreographer at the Metropolitan Opera. She has received 10 honorary doctorates and numerous awards, including the Presidential Medal of Arts, the French Legion of Honor, the NAACP's Lifetime Achievement Award and the Kennedy Center Honors Award.

She continues to be an activist, teacher and mentor to young people throughout the world. I urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 62, which expresses the sense of Congress that Katherine Dunham should be recognized for her work as a teacher, dancer, choreographer and actress, for her dedication to improving the opportunities in the arts that are available to the Nation's youth and for her lifelong commitment to humanitarian causes around the world.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 62. I support this resolution which honors Katherine Dunham. This renowned dancer was born in Illinois in 1909 and started studying dance in her early teens. She was one of the first African Americans to study at the University of Chicago, where she earned a doctorate degree in anthropology.

As part of a research fellowship, Dunham studied the anthropological roots of dance in the Caribbean. Her research led to the creation of the anthropological dance movement which focuses on folk, ethnic and cultural choreography.

In 1931, she started the first African-American ballet company in the United States. Later she joined the faculty of Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville, where she helped create a performing arts training center and established a dance anthropology program.

She went on to create a community-based arts education program for impoverished young people in East St. Louis, the St. Louis metropolitan region's only multi-disciplinary arts organization devoted to the study, appreciation and celebration of diverse cultures.

Throughout her illustrious career as one of the world's most respected dancers, choreographers and teachers, Ms. Dunham used her talents, fame and resources to call attention to social injustices at home and abroad.

In closing, Madam Speaker, Katherine was dedicated to improving the

lives of America's youth and correcting the social injustices at home and around the world, using her fame to increase support for the civil rights movement and to fight injustices worldwide. She is a good example of a person who has followed her passion and used her success for the greater good. We need more Americans to follow her fine example.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I encourage each of our Members to support the resolution.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 62.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT LIONEL HAMPTON SHOULD BE HONORED FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO AMERICAN MUSIC

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 63) expressing the sense of Congress that Lionel Hampton should be honored for his contributions to American music.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 63

Whereas Lionel Hampton was one of the Nation's greatest jazz musicians, composers, and band leaders;

Whereas Lionel Hampton was one of the first musicians to play the vibraphone in jazz, setting the standard for mastery of that instrument;

Whereas Lionel Hampton nurtured and inspired many of the greatest performers of jazz music who would go on to fame in their own right;

Whereas Lionel Hampton shattered the racial barriers of his time when he was recruited to perform with the Benny Goodman band in the 1930s, creating for the first time an integrated public face of jazz music;

Whereas Lionel Hampton, with his performances around the world, was a musical ambassador of goodwill and friendship for the United States;

Whereas Lionel Hampton was never deterred by fame from contributing to the Harlem, New York, community that he viewed as his home;

Whereas Lionel Hampton was active in the development of affordable housing, among them Harlem's Gladys Hampton Houses, named after his late wife, the former Gladys Riddle;

Whereas Lionel Hampton performed at the White House under Republican and Democratic presidents and was honored with the Presidential Gold Medal by President Bill Clinton; and

Whereas Lionel Hampton was born in Louisville, Kentucky on April 20, 1908, and died

in New York City on August 31, 2002: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that Lionel Hampton should be honored for his contributions to American music and for his work as an ambassador of goodwill and democracy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 63.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Delaware?

There was no objection.

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support in H. Con. Res. 63, and H. Con. Res. 63 expresses the sense of Congress that Lionel Hampton should be honored for his contributions to American music.

Starting in the 1930s on the vibraphone as a contemporary of Louis Armstrong and Benny Goodman, and staying active into the 1990s, Lionel Hampton built one of the towering careers in jazz music. A multi-instrumentalist, Hampton also enjoyed unmatched popularity as a bandleader, showman and social activist.

As a musician his greatest impact was on the vibraphone, becoming the first great jazz improviser on the instrument. Over the years his big band featured some of the best known singers and musicians in jazz history, and it became one of the longest running and commercially successful institutions in jazz. He also recorded extensively in many all-star small group projects at both sideman and leader.

Hampton became one of America's most-beloved musical figures. His astonishing longevity and extroverted personality made him a favorite of everyone from ordinary music fans to world leaders.

Lionel Hampton shattered the racial barriers of his time when he was recruited to perform with the Benny Goodman band in the 1930s, creating for the first time an integrated public face of jazz music.

As a composer and arranger, Hampton wrote more than 200 works, including the jazz standards *Flying Home*, *Evil Gal Blues* and *Midnight Sun*. He also composed a major symphonic work, *King David Suite*.

As a statesman, he was asked by President Eisenhower to serve as a goodwill ambassador for the United States, and his band made many tours in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and the Far East, generating a huge international following. President George

Bush, Senior, appointed him to the board of the Kennedy Center, and President Clinton awarded him the National Medal of the Arts.

As a businessman, he established two record labels, his own publishing company, and he founded the Lionel Hampton Development Corporation to build low-income housing in inner cities.

In his continuing role as an educator, he began working with the University of Idaho in the early 1980s to establish his dream for the future of music education. In 1985, the university named its jazz festival for him, and in 1987 the university's music school was named the Lionel Hampton School of Music.

Nearly 20 years later, the University of Idaho has developed an unprecedented relationship with Hampton by ensuring that his vision lives through the Lionel Hampton Center, a \$60 million project that will provide a home for jazz, housing the university's jazz festival, its school of music and its international jazz collection, all designed to help teach and preserve the heritage of jazz.

House Concurrent Resolution 63 expresses the sense of Congress that Lionel Hampton should be honored for his contributions to American music and for his work as an ambassador of goodwill and democracy. I urge my colleagues to support the resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time;

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume in order to support this resolution which honors Lionel Hampton.

This talented musician was born in Kentucky in 1908 and was raised in Chicago. He learned to play the drums while in school and later moved to Los Angeles to pursue a career in music. He is most famous for his work with the vibraphone, earning himself the nickname "the king of vibes."

In 1930, he joined the Benny Goodman Quartet, making them the first racially integrated group of jazz musicians. He also established the Lionel Hampton Orchestra. Sunny Side of the Street, Central Avenue Breakdown, his signature tune, Flying Home and Hamp's Boogie-Woogie all became top-of-the-chart best sellers.

Hampton visited many different countries as a goodwill ambassador for then President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

He created the Lionel Hampton Development Corporation in order to build low-income housing in the cities.

Hampton also worked with the University of Idaho to preserve and teach the history of jazz music to future generations.

He died on August 31, 2002.

In closing, it is fitting for Congress to honor Mr. Hampton's contributions to American music, to expanding low-income housing in our Nation's cities and for his work as a goodwill ambassador.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a supporter of H. Con. Res. 63, which honors and recognizes

the life of the late Lionel Hampton. This is an honor that is well deserved for a man who dedicated his life not only to the performing arts but also to his community. I want to thank my distinguished colleague Representative CHARLES RANGEL for bringing this bill to the floor and giving appreciation to a truly outstanding human being.

As a jazz musician, Lionel Hampton made a positive impact on the world of jazz, as well as on American culture. Often called one of the greatest jazz musicians of our time, Lionel Hampton also proved outstanding as a composer and band leader. He set new standards for musicians across the world. Being a member of the Benny Goodman band he set a new standard for integration. By gaining mastery of the vibraphone, he set a new standard for jazz. Also known as the "King of the Vibe," Hampton led his own orchestra, which gained popularity and recognition world-wide. Noteworthy musicians and producers like Quincy Jones are products of Lionel Hampton's Orchestra.

Lionel Hampton's work was praised by some of the highest leaders of the land. President Dwight D. Eisenhower asked Hampton to serve as the Goodwill Ambassador for the United States. Years later, President George Bush, Sr. appointed Hampton to the Board of the Kennedy Center, while a few years later President Bill Clinton awarded him the National Medal of the Arts.

An entrepreneur in his own right, Lionel Hampton launched two record labels, a publishing company and the Lionel Hampton Development Corporation. He also partnered with the University of Idaho, which named its School of Music the Lionel Hampton School of Music. And in 2006, the Lionel Hampton Center will be the home for jazz, housing the university's School of Music, the university's jazz festival and its International Jazz Collections.

Lionel Hampton took pride in his home in Harlem, New York, and used his platform and affection for his community to contribute to the development of affordable housing. His own Lionel Hampton Development Corporation led to such developments as the Gladys Hampton Housing project, named for his wife whom he married in 1936. Hampton's efforts in the housing arena should serve as an example to all, as he used his groundbreaking achievements to help others.

Although Lionel Hampton has been deceased for almost 2 years, his music and legacy are alive, thriving and deserving of congressional acknowledgment.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, I encourage everyone to support the resolution. I have no further requests for time, and I also yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 63.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REDESIGNATION OF AMERICAN INDIAN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Mr. RENZI. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3504) to amend the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to redesignate the American Indian Education Foundation as the National Fund for Excellence in American Indian Education.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3504

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REDESIGNATION OF AMERICAN INDIAN EDUCATION FOUNDATION.

(a) REDESIGNATION.—Section 501(a) of title V of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 458bbb(a)), as added by Public Law 106-568, is amended by striking "the American Indian Education Foundation" and inserting "a foundation to be known as the 'National Fund for Excellence in American Indian Education' (hereinafter referred to as the 'Foundation')".

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Title V of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 458bbb), as added by Public Law 106-568, is amended—

(1) in the heading to read as follows:

"TITLE V—NATIONAL FUND FOR EXCELLENCE IN AMERICAN INDIAN EDUCATION";

and

(2) in the heading of section 501 to read as follows:

"SEC. 501. NATIONAL FUND FOR EXCELLENCE IN AMERICAN INDIAN EDUCATION."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RENZI. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3504, the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. RENZI. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I should like to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman BOEHNER) for scheduling this important legislation.

H.R. 3504 would redesignate the American Indian Education Foundation as the National Fund for Excellence in American Indian education. The American Indian Education Foundation was chartered by Congress under the Omnibus Indian Advancement Act in the 106th Congress. Its purpose is to further the educational opportunities of the American Indian students who attend BIA schools. This legislation was championed by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

Unfortunately, under passage of the Omnibus Indian Advancement Act, it

was discovered the name "American Indian Education Foundation" is already used by an existing nonprofit organization which holds the trademark to the name. Thus, the foundation Congress intended to establish cannot get incorporated unless we change the name.

This issue may be noncontroversial and technical in nature, but if we do not correct the organization's name, the fund's staff and board of directors cannot get to work on improving the education of American Indian students.

I would also like to thank at this time the leadership of America's first Native American college, the NA College, located in the Navajo Nation, for their advocacy and unwavering support in advancing the educational ideals of our Native American Indian students.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this bill makes an important technical change to the American Indian Foundation. I introduced this bill in the 106th Congress, and Congress established this foundation in that Congress to improve the education of Native Americans.

This bill would rename the existing American Indian Foundation as the National Fund for Excellence in American Indian Education. This is an important technical change that allows this foundation to avoid copyright conflicts with the previously existing foundation with the same name.

I urge Members to support myself and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) and this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RENZI. Madam Speaker, I have no other speakers at this time, and I also yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3504.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD AND ENCOURAGING GREATER INVOLVEMENT OF FATHERS IN THE LIVES OF THEIR CHILDREN

Mr. OSBORNE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 66) supporting responsible fatherhood and encouraging greater involvement of fathers in the lives of their children, especially on Father's Day.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 66

Whereas 40 percent of children who live in fatherless households in the United States have not seen their fathers in at least 1 year,

and 50 percent of such children have never visited their fathers' homes;

Whereas approximately 50 percent of all children born in the United States spend at least half of their childhood in families without father figures;

Whereas 3 out of 4 adolescents in the United States report that they do not have adults in their lives that serve as positive role models;

Whereas children who are apart from their biological fathers are, in comparison to other children, 5 times more likely to live in poverty, and more likely to bring weapons and drugs into the classroom, commit other crimes, drop out of school, commit suicide, abuse alcohol or drugs, or become pregnant as teenagers;

Whereas the Federal Government spends billions of dollars to address these social ills and very little to promote responsible fatherhood;

Whereas children with fathers at home tend to do better in school, to be less prone to depression, and to have more successful relationships;

Whereas boys and girls alike demonstrate greater self-control and ability to take initiative when fathers are actively involved in their upbringing;

Whereas promoting responsible fatherhood can help increase the chances that children will grow up with two caring parents;

Whereas the promotion of responsible fatherhood should not denigrate the standing or parenting efforts of single mothers, whose efforts are heroic, lessen the protection of children from abusive parents, cause women to remain in, or enter into, abusive relationships, or compromise the health or safety of a custodial parent;

Whereas a broad array of the Nation's leading family and child development experts agree that it is in the best interests of children and the Nation as a whole to encourage more two-parent families where the father is actively involved with his children;

Whereas in a study of fathers' interaction with their children in intact two-parent families, nearly 90 percent of the fathers surveyed said that being a father is the most fulfilling role a man can have;

Whereas according to a 1996 Gallup poll, 90.3 percent of Americans agree that fathers make a unique contribution to their children's lives;

Whereas married fathers are more likely to have a close, enduring relationship with their children than unmarried fathers; and

Whereas Father's Day is the third Sunday in June; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) urges men to understand the level of responsibility fathering a child requires, especially in the encouragement of the moral, academic, and spiritual development of children;

(2) encourages active involvement of fathers in the rearing and development of their children, including the devotion of time, energy, and resources to his children, recognizing that children need not only material support, but even more importantly, a secure and nurturing family environment;

(3) urges mothers to encourage fathers to play an active role in child-rearing;

(4) commends the millions of fathers who serve as wonderful, caring parents for their children;

(5) calls on fathers across the Nation to use Father's Day to reconnect and rededicate themselves to their children's lives, to spend Father's Day with their children, and to express their love and support for their children; and

(6) urges institutions and government entities at every level to promote public policies

that encourage and support, and remove barriers to, responsible fatherhood.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 66.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

Mr. OSBORNE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I would first like to thank the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. SULLIVAN) for sponsoring this legislation and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), the chairman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, for supporting it.

Madam Speaker, we live in troubled times for young people. Over 36 years of coaching I saw cultural changes that negatively impacted children. The out-of-wedlock birth rate went from 5 percent in 1960 to roughly 33 percent today.

The United States has become the most violent nation in the world for young people in terms of homicide and suicide. Drug and alcohol addiction has increased dramatically. We currently have roughly 3 million teenage alcoholics and hundreds of thousands who are addicted to other types of drugs.

□ 1730

Teen pregnancy has skyrocketed.

The greatest single factor in this alarming transformation has been fatherlessness. There are currently 24 million fatherless children in the United States. Up to 60 percent of today's children will spend at least part of their childhood separated from their biological fathers, and many fathers who are present are emotionally absent because of work commitment and simple lack of interest in their children's lives.

Fatherless children have a great deal of trauma and dysfunction in their lives. They are much more likely to commit crimes and engage in substance abuse. Approximately 70 percent of prison inmates grew up without fathers. Fatherless children have lower grades and higher dropout rates. The dropout rate for fatherless children is roughly double that of other children. Fatherless children are five times more likely to live in poverty, are more likely to be promiscuous. And three out of four suicides take place in a home where a parent is absent, and psychiatric problems are four to five times more prevalent for fatherless children.

So when a dad walks out, it leaves a vacuum that is often filled with all of

the wrong stuff. This is the biggest threat that we experience in our culture today, so I would like to take this opportunity particularly to thank those fathers who do stay the course. While some have minimized the importance of fatherhood, the evidence is overwhelming that a father makes a unique contribution in the lives of his children.

It takes both a father and a mother living in a committed relationship to develop stable children and a strong culture. Some have denigrated the institution of marriage and said fathers really are somewhat irrelevant, and obviously the facts belie that. Fathers are critical, as are mothers, to a strong society.

Madam Speaker, I want to urge support to the National Center on Fathering created by Ken Canfield. Mentoring programs have been very important around the country to fill the gap in fatherlessness, and all of the initiatives which promote and strengthen fatherhood.

We currently see an encouraging increase in interest and recognition of the importance of fatherhood. I guess in what might otherwise be a rather bleak picture, this is somewhat of an encouraging sign. I urge adoption of House Resolution 66.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am happy to rise in appreciation of fathers and in full support of Father's Day. Many people believe that Father's Day was started by greeting card companies to create another reason for people to buy greeting cards, but that is not so. The origination of Father's Day is generally credited to Mrs. John B. Dodd of Washington State. Mrs. Dodd wanted to honor her father, William Smart. Mr. Smart was a Civil War veteran whose wife, Mrs. Dodd's mother, died in childbirth with their sixth child. Mr. Smart never remarried and raised all six children by himself.

Beginning in 1919, Father's Day was celebrated unofficially on June 19, which was close to Mr. Smart's birthday. It was not until 1966 that Father's Day became an official American celebration when President Johnson signed a Presidential proclamation declaring the third Sunday in June Father's Day.

I am happy to join my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to honor the many, many wonderful fathers who have given children their time, knowledge and strength, and most of all their love; and I would like to take this opportunity to also thank and show great gratitude for the grandfathers who have in many of our lives, mine in particular, played a tremendous role and in many instances step in for the father who is not there.

There is something special about the grandfather because they are passing down from many generations, which is very enriching, I think, for many

young people in our society today. And coming from a generation where there has been much divorce and many fathers who have not been around, I think this is a very appropriate resolution, and I am happy to show our appreciation to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE).

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.J. Res. 66, a resolution that speaks to the importance of fathers and the role that they play in our society. I thank my colleague, Mr. Sullivan, for his work on this important matter.

Six days from now, our nation will celebrate the special place that fathers have in our country.

From helping with homework to playing ball, from reading a book to offering advice, and from praying with and just listening, each and every day fathers of all ages contribute to the mental, moral, physical and spiritual development of children, teenagers, and adults.

According to the National Fatherhood Initiative, children with involved, loving fathers are significantly more likely to do well in school, have a healthy self esteem, show empathy, exhibit good behavior, and avoid high risk activity such as drug use and criminal activity.

H.J. Resolution 66 recognizes the wonderful work that both parents do on behalf of their kids, and I encourage my colleagues to join with us as we all recommit ourselves to being the best father we can to children everywhere.

And in conclusion, I would like to publicly thank my father, Dr. Douglas McIntyre of my hometown of Lumberton, for the great example he has been to me and for the dedication and support he has shown in my every endeavor.

Mr. OSBORNE. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 66.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND FOR COOPERATION ON USES OF ATOMIC ENERGY FOR MUTUAL DEFENSE PURPOSES—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 108-192)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit to the Congress, pursuant to section 123d. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended, the text of an amendment to the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for Cooperation on the Uses of Atomic Energy for Mutual Defense Purposes of July 3, 1958, as amended, and my written approval, authorization, and determination concerning the agreement. The joint unclassified letter submitted to me by the Secretaries of Energy and Defense that provides a summary position on the Amendment is also enclosed.

The Amendment extends for 10 years (until December 31, 2014) provisions that permit the transfer of nonnuclear parts, source, byproduct, special nuclear materials, and other material and technology for nuclear weapons and military reactors, and revises text, principally in the Security Annex, to be consistent with current policies and practices relating to personnel and physical security.

In my judgment, the proposed Amendment meets all statutory requirements. The United Kingdom intends to continue to maintain viable nuclear forces. In light of our previous close cooperation and the fact that the United Kingdom has committed its nuclear forces to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, I have concluded that it is in our interest to continue to assist them in maintaining a credible nuclear force.

I have approved the Amendment, authorized its execution, and urge that the Congress give it favorable consideration.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 14, 2004.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TIBERI) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.J. Res. 97, by the yeas and nays;
H. Res. 669, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 4323, by the yeas and nays; and H. Res. 653, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

APPROVING THE RENEWAL OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS CONTAINED IN THE BURMESE FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2003

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 97.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 97 on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 372, nays 2, not voting 59, as follows:

[Roll No. 232]
YEAS—372

Abercrombie	Chandler	Gillmor
Ackerman	Chocola	Gingrey
Akin	Clay	Gonzalez
Alexander	Clyburn	Goode
Allen	Coble	Goodlatte
Baca	Cole	Gordon
Bachus	Collins	Goss
Baird	Cooper	Granger
Baker	Costello	Green (TX)
Baldwin	Cox	Green (WI)
Ballenger	Cramer	Greenwood
Barrett (SC)	Crane	Grijalva
Bartlett (MD)	Crenshaw	Gutknecht
Barton (TX)	Cubin	Hall
Bass	Cummings	Harman
Beauprez	Cunningham	Harris
Becerra	Davis (CA)	Hart
Bereuter	Davis (FL)	Hastings (FL)
Berkley	Davis (IL)	Hastings (WA)
Berman	Davis (TN)	Hayes
Berry	Davis, Jo Ann	Hayworth
Biggert	Davis, Tom	Hefley
Bishop (GA)	Deal (GA)	Hensarling
Bishop (NY)	DeFazio	Herger
Bishop (UT)	DeGette	Herseth
Blackburn	Delahunt	Hill
Blumenauer	DeLauro	Hinche
Blunt	DeLay	Hinojosa
Boehlert	Diaz-Balart, L.	Hobson
Boehner	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hoekstra
Bonilla	Dicks	Holden
Bonner	Dingell	Holt
Bono	Doggett	Honda
Boozman	Doolittle	Honda (OR)
Boswell	Doyle	Hostettler
Boucher	Dreier	Houghton
Boyd	Duncan	Hoyer
Bradley (NH)	Dunn	Hulshof
Brady (PA)	Emanuel	Hunter
Brady (TX)	Emerson	Hyde
Brown (OH)	Engel	Inslee
Brown (SC)	English	Isakson
Brown-Waite,	Eshoo	Israel
Ginny	Etheridge	Issa
Burgess	Evans	Istook
Burns	Everett	Jackson (IL)
Buyer	Farr	Jackson-Lee
Calvert	Feeney	(TX)
Camp	Ferguson	Jefferson
Cannon	Filner	Jenkins
Cantor	Foley	Johnson (CT)
Capito	Forbes	Johnson (IL)
Capps	Fossella	Johnson, E. B.
Capuano	Frank (MA)	Johnson, Sam
Cardin	Franks (AZ)	Jones (NC)
Cardoza	Frelinghuysen	Jones (OH)
Carter	Gallegly	Kanjorski
Case	Gerlach	Kaptur
Castle	Gibbons	Keller
Chabot	Gilchrest	Kelly

Kennedy (MN)	Napolitano	Shaw
Kennedy (RI)	Nethercutt	Sherman
Kildee	Neugebauer	Sherwood
Kind	Ney	Shimkus
King (IA)	Northup	Shuster
King (NY)	Norwood	Simmons
Kingston	Nunes	Simpson
Kirk	Oberstar	Skelton
Kleczka	Obey	Slaughter
Kline	Oliver	Smith (MI)
Knollenberg	Ortiz	Smith (NJ)
Kolbe	Osborne	Smith (TX)
Kucinich	Ose	Smith (WA)
LaHood	Otter	Snyder
Langevin	Owens	Solis
Larsen (WA)	Oxley	Souder
Larson (CT)	Pastor	Spratt
Latham	Pearce	Stark
LaTourette	Pence	Stearns
Leach	Peterson (MN)	Stenholm
Lee	Petri	Strickland
Levin	Pickering	Stupak
Lewis (CA)	Pitts	Sullivan
Lewis (GA)	Platts	Sweeney
Lewis (KY)	Pombo	Tancredo
Linder	Pomeroy	Tanner
LoBiondo	Porter	Tauscher
Lofgren	Portman	Tauzin
Lucas (KY)	Price (NC)	Taylor (MS)
Lucas (OK)	Pryce (OH)	Terry
Lynch	Putnam	Thomas
Majette	Quinn	Thompson (CA)
Maloney	Radanovich	Thompson (MS)
Manzullo	Rahall	Thornberry
Markey	Ramstad	Tiahrt
Marshall	Rangel	Tiberi
Matheson	Regula	Tierney
Matsui	Rehberg	Towns
McCarthy (MO)	Renzi	Turner (OH)
McCarthy (NY)	Reynolds	Turner (TX)
McCollum	Rodriguez	Udall (CO)
McCotter	Rogers (AL)	Udall (NM)
McCrery	Rogers (KY)	Upton
McDermott	Rogers (MI)	Van Hollen
McGovern	Rohrabacher	Visclosky
McHugh	Ros-Lehtinen	Vitter
McInnis	Ross	Walden (OR)
McIntyre	Roybal-Allard	Walsh
McKeon	Royce	Wamp
McNulty	Rush	Waters
Meek (FL)	Ryan (OH)	Watt
Meeks (NY)	Ryan (WI)	Waxman
Menendez	Ryun (KS)	Weiner
Mica	Sabo	Weldon (FL)
Michaud	Sánchez, Linda	Weldon (PA)
Miller (MI)	T.	Weller
Miller (NC)	Sanchez, Loretta	Wexler
Miller, Gary	Sandlin	Whitfield
Moore	Saxton	Wicker
Moran (KS)	Schakowsky	Wilson (NM)
Moran (VA)	Schrock	Wilson (SC)
Murphy	Scott (GA)	Wolf
Murtha	Sensenbrenner	Wu
Musgrave	Sessions	Wynn
Myrick	Shadegg	Young (FL)

NAYS—2

Flake Paul

NOT VOTING—59

Aderholt	Frost	Nussle
Andrews	Garrett (NJ)	Pallone
Bell	Gephardt	Pascarella
Bilirakis	Graves	Payne
Brown, Corrine	Gutierrez	Pelosi
Burr	Hoefl	Peterson (PA)
Burton (IN)	John	Reyes
Carson (IN)	Kilpatrick	Rothman
Carson (OK)	Lampson	Ruppersberger
Conyers	Lantos	Sanders
Crowley	Lipinski	Schiff
Culberson	Lowey	Scott (VA)
Davis (AL)	Meehan	Serrano
DeMint	Millender	Shays
Deutsch	McDonald	Taylor (NC)
Dooley (CA)	Miller (FL)	Toomey
Edwards	Miller, George	Velázquez
Ehlers	Mollohan	Watson
Fattah	Nadler	Woolsey
Ford	Neal (MA)	Young (AK)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TIBERI) (during the vote). Members are advised that there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1857

Mr. LINDER changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the joint resolution was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 232, had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the remainder of this series of votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS WITH RESPECT TO NEED TO PROVIDE PROSTATE CANCER PATIENTS WITH MEANINGFUL ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON TREATMENT OPTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 669.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 669, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 377, nays 3, not voting 53, as follows:

[Roll No. 233]
YEAS—377

Abercrombie	Boswell	Cox
Ackerman	Boucher	Cramer
Akin	Boyd	Crane
Alexander	Bradley (NH)	Crenshaw
Allen	Brady (PA)	Cubin
Andrews	Brady (TX)	Cummings
Baca	Brown (OH)	Cunningham
Bachus	Brown (SC)	Davis (CA)
Baird	Brown-Waite,	Davis (FL)
Baker	Ginny	Davis (IL)
Baldwin	Burgess	Davis (TN)
Ballenger	Burns	Davis, Jo Ann
Barrett (SC)	Buyer	Davis, Tom
Bartlett (MD)	Calvert	Deal (GA)
Barton (TX)	Camp	DeFazio
Bass	Cannon	DeGette
Beauprez	Cantor	Delahunt
Becerra	Capito	DeLauro
Bereuter	Capps	DeLay
Berkley	Capuano	Diaz-Balart, L.
Berman	Cardin	Diaz-Balart, M.
Berry	Cardoza	Dicks
Biggert	Carter	Dingell
Bishop (GA)	Case	Doggett
Bishop (NY)	Castle	Doolittle
Bishop (UT)	Chabot	Doyle
Blackburn	Chandler	Dreier
Blumenauer	Chocola	Duncan
Blunt	Clay	Dunn
Boehlert	Clyburn	Edwards
Boehner	Coble	Emanuel
Bonilla	Cole	Emerson
Bonner	Collins	Engel
Bono	Cooper	English
Boozman	Costello	Eshoo

Etheridge	Larsen (WA)	Rogers (KY)	Carson (IN)	Hoeffel	Nussle	Hyde	Moran (KS)	Scott (GA)
Evans	Larson (CT)	Rogers (MI)	Carson (OK)	Hunter	Pallone	Inslee	Moran (VA)	Scott (VA)
Everett	Latham	Rohrabacher	Conyers	John	Pascarell	Isakson	Murphy	Sensenbrenner
Farr	LaTourette	Ros-Lehtinen	Crowley	Kilpatrick	Payne	Israel	Musgrave	Sessions
Feeney	Leach	Ross	Culberson	Lampson	Pelosi	Issa	Myrick	Shadegg
Ferguson	Lee	Rothman	Davis (AL)	Lantos	Peterson (PA)	Istook	Nethercutt	Shaw
Filner	Levin	Roybal-Allard	DeMint	Lipinski	Reyes	Jackson (IL)	Neugebauer	Sherwood
Foley	Lewis (CA)	Royce	Deutsch	Lowey	Ruppersberger	Jenkins	Ney	Shimkus
Forbes	Lewis (GA)	Rush	Dooley (CA)	Meehan	Sanders	Johnson (CT)	Northup	Shuster
Fossella	Lewis (KY)	Ryan (OH)	Ehlers	Millender-	Serrano	Johnson, Sam	Norwood	Simmons
Frank (MA)	Linder	Ryan (WI)	Fattah	McDonald	Shays	Jones (NC)	Nunes	Simpson
Franks (AZ)	LoBiondo	Ryun (KS)	Ford	Miller (FL)	Taylor (NC)	Kaptur	Nussle	Skelton
Frelinghuysen	Lofgren	Sabo	Frost	Miller, George	Toomey	Keller	Ortiz	Smith (MI)
Gallegly	Lucas (KY)	Sánchez, Linda	Gephardt	Mollohan	Velázquez	Kelly	Osborne	Smith (NJ)
Garrett (NJ)	Lucas (OK)	T.	Graves	Nadler	Watson	Kennedy (MN)	Ose	Smith (TX)
Gerlach	Lynch	Sanchez, Loretta	Gutierrez	Neal (MA)	Woolsey	Kildee	Otter	Smith (WA)
Gibbons	Majette	Sandin				Kind	Oxley	Snyder
Gilchrest	Maloney	Saxton				King (IA)	Paul	Souder
Gillmor	Manzullo	Schakowsky				King (NY)	Pearce	Spratt
Gingrey	Markey	Schiff				Kingston	Pence	Stearns
Gonzalez	Marshall	Schrock				Kirk	Petri	Sullivan
Goode	Matheson	Scott (GA)				Kline	Pickering	Sweeney
Goodlatte	Matsui	Scott (VA)				Knollenberg	Pitts	Tanner
Gordon	McCarthy (MO)	Sensenbrenner				Kolbe	Platts	Tauscher
Goss	McCarthy (NY)	Sessions				LaHood	Pombo	Tauzin
Granger	McCollum	Shaw				Larsen (WA)	Pomeroy	Taylor (MS)
Green (TX)	McCotter	Sherman				Larson (CT)	Porter	Terry
Green (WI)	McCrery	Sherwood				Latham	Portman	Thomas
Greenwood	McDermott	Shimkus				LaTourette	Price (NC)	Thompson (MS)
Grijalva	McGovern	Shuster				Leach	Pryce (OH)	Thornberry
Gutknecht	McHugh	Simmons				Lewis (CA)	Putnam	Tiahrt
Hall	McInnis	Simpson				Lewis (KY)	Quinn	Tiberi
Harman	McIntyre	Skelton				Linder	Radanovich	Towns
Harris	McKeon	Slaughter				LoBiondo	Ramstad	Turner (OH)
Hart	McNulty	Smith (MI)				Lucas (KY)	Rangel	Turner (TX)
Hastings (FL)	Meek (FL)	Smith (NJ)				Lucas (OK)	Regula	Upton
Hastings (WA)	Meeks (NY)	Smith (TX)				Manzullo	Rehberg	Van Hollen
Hayes	Menendez	Smith (WA)				Marshall	Renzi	Vitter
Hayworth	Mica	Snyder				Matheson	Reynolds	Walsh
Hefley	Michaud	Solis				McCarthy (MO)	Rodriguez	Wamp
Hensarling	Miller (MI)	Souder				McCarthy (NY)	Rogers (AL)	Weldon (FL)
Herger	Miller (NC)	Spratt				McCotter	Rogers (KY)	Weldon (PA)
Hereth	Miller, Gary	Stark				McCrery	Rogers (MI)	Weller
Hill	Moore	Stearns				McHugh	Rohrabacher	Wexler
Hinchey	Moran (KS)	Stenholm				McInnis	Ros-Lehtinen	Whitfield
Hinojosa	Moran (VA)	Strickland				McIntyre	Rothman	Wicker
Hobson	Murphy	Stupak				McKeon	Royce	Wilson (NM)
Hoekstra	Murtha	Sullivan				McNulty	Rush	Wilson (SC)
Holden	Musgrave	Sweeney				Menendez	Ryan (WI)	Wolf
Holt	Myrick	Tancredo				Mica	Ryun (KS)	Wu
Honda	Napolitano	Tanner				Michaud	Sanchez, Loretta	Young (AK)
Hooley (OR)	Nethercutt	Tauscher				Miller (MI)	Sandin	Young (FL)
Hostettler	Neugebauer	Tauzin				Miller (NC)	Saxton	
Houghton	Ney	Taylor (MS)				Miller, Gary	Schiff	
Hoyer	Northup	Terry				Moore	Schrock	
Hulshof	Norwood	Thomas						
Hyde	Nunes	Thompson (CA)						
Inslee	Oberstar	Thompson (MS)						
Isakson	Obey	Thornberry						
Israel	Olver	Tiahrt						
Issa	Ortiz	Tiberi						
Istook	Osborne	Tierney						
Jackson (IL)	Ose	Towns						
Jackson-Lee	Otter	Turner (OH)						
(TX)	Owens	Turner (TX)						
Jefferson	Oxley	Udall (CO)						
Jenkins	Pastor	Udall (NM)						
Johnson (CT)	Pearce	Upton						
Johnson (IL)	Pence	Van Hollen						
Johnson, E. B.	Peterson (MN)	Visclosky						
Johnson, Sam	Petri	Vitter						
Jones (NC)	Pickering	Walden (OR)						
Jones (OH)	Pitts	Walsh						
Kanjorski	Platts	Wamp						
Kaptur	Pombo	Waters						
Keller	Pomeroy	Watt						
Kelly	Porter	Waxman						
Kennedy (MN)	Portman	Weiner						
Kennedy (RI)	Price (NC)	Weldon (FL)						
Kildee	Pryce (OH)	Weldon (PA)						
Kind	Putnam	Weller						
King (IA)	Quinn	Wexler						
King (NY)	Radanovich	Whitfield						
Kingston	Rahall	Wicker						
Kirk	Ramstad	Wilson (NM)						
Klecza	Rangel	Wilson (SC)						
Kline	Regula	Wolf						
Knollenberg	Rehberg	Wu						
Kolbe	Renzi	Wynn						
Kucinich	Reynolds	Young (AK)						
LaHood	Rodriguez	Young (FL)						
Langevin	Rogers (AL)							

NAYS—3

Flake	Paul	Shadegg
NOT VOTING—53		
Aderholt	Bilirakis	Burr
Bell	Brown, Corrine	Burton (IN)

□ 1905

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROVIDING RAPID ACQUISITION AUTHORITY TO SECRETARY OF DEFENSE TO RESPOND TO COMBAT EMERGENCIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TIBERI). The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 4323.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4323, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 285, nays 97, not voting 51, as follows:

[Roll No. 234]

YEAS—285

Akin	Case	Fossella
Alexander	Castle	Franks (AZ)
Andrews	Chabot	Frelinghuysen
Baca	Chocola	Gallegly
Bachus	Clyburn	Garrett (NJ)
Baird	Coble	Gerlach
Baker	Cole	Gibbons
Ballenger	Collins	Gilchrest
Barrett (SC)	Cooper	Gillmor
Barton (TX)	Costello	Gingrey
Bass	Cox	Gonzalez
Beauprez	Cramer	Goode
Bereuter	Crane	Goodlatte
Biggert	Crenshaw	Gordon
Bishop (NY)	Cubin	Goss
Bishop (UT)	Cunningham	Granger
Blackburn	Davis (CA)	Green (TX)
Blunt	Davis (FL)	Green (WI)
Boehlert	Davis (TN)	Greenwood
Boehner	Davis, Jo Ann	Gutknecht
Bonilla	Davis, Tom	Hall
Bonner	Deal (GA)	Harris
Bono	DeLay	Hart
Boozman	Diaz-Balart, L.	Hastings (WA)
Boswell	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hayes
Boucher	Doolittle	Hayworth
Bradley (NH)	Dreier	Hefley
Brady (TX)	Duncan	Hensarling
Brown (SC)	Dunn	Herger
Brown-Waite,	Edwards	Hereth
Ginny	Emerson	Hill
Burgess	Engel	Hinojosa
Burns	English	Hobson
Buyer	Etheridge	Hoekstra
Calvert	Evans	Holden
Camp	Everett	Honda
Cannon	Feeney	Hostettler
Cantor	Ferguson	Houghton
Capito	Flake	Hoyer
Cardin	Foley	Hulshof
Carter	Forbes	Hunter

NAYS—97

Abercrombie	Frank (MA)	Napolitano
Ackerman	Grijalva	Oberstar
Allen	Harman	Obey
Baldwin	Hastings (FL)	Olver
Bartlett (MD)	Hinchey	Owens
Becerra	Holt	Pastor
Berkley	Hooley (OR)	Peterson (MN)
Berman	Jackson-Lee	Rahall
Berry	(TX)	Ross
Bishop (GA)	Jefferson	Roybal-Allard
Blumenauer	Johnson (IL)	Ryan (OH)
Boyd	Johnson, E. B.	Sabo
Brady (PA)	Jones (OH)	Sánchez, Linda
Brown (OH)	Kanjorski	T.
Capps	Kennedy (RI)	Sanders
Capuano	Klecza	Schakowsky
Cardoza	Kucinich	Sherman
Chandler	Langevin	Slaughter
Clay	Lee	Solis
Cummings	Levin	Stark
Davis (IL)	Lewis (GA)	Stenholm
DeFazio	Lofgren	Strickland
DeGette	Lynch	Stupak
Delahunt	Majette	Thompson (CA)
DeLauro	Maloney	Tierney
Dicks	Markey	Udall (CO)
Dingell	Matsui	Udall (NM)
Doggett	McCollum	Visclosky
Doyle	McDermott	Waters
Emanuel	McGovern	Watt
Eshoo	Meek (FL)	Waxman
Farr	Meeks (NY)	Weiner
Filner	Murtha	Wynn

NOT VOTING—51

Aderholt	Carson (OK)	Dooley (CA)
Bell	Conyers	Ehlers
Bilirakis	Crowley	Fattah
Brown, Corrine	Culberson	Ford
Burr	Davis (AL)	Frost
Burton (IN)	DeMint	Gephardt
Carson (IN)	Deutsch	Graves

Gutierrez
Hoefel
John
Kilpatrick
Lampson
Lantos
Lipinski
Lowey
Meehan
Millender-
McDonald

Miller (FL)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Nadler
Neal (MA)
Pallone
Pascarell
Payne
Pelosi
Peterson (PA)
Reyes

Ruppersberger
Serrano
Shays
Tancredo
Taylor (NC)
Toomey
Velázquez
Watson
Woolsey

Clay
Clyburn
Coble
Cole
Collins
Cooper
Costello
Cox
Cramer
Crane
Crenshaw
Cubin

Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio

DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
DeLay
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.

Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Edwards
Emanuel
Emerson

Engel
English
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Everett
Farr
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Fossella
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)

Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Goss
Granger
Green (TX)
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Grijalva
Gutknecht
Hall
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)

Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Herseeth
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley (OR)
Hostettler
Houghton
Hoyer
Hulshof

Hunter
Hyde
Insee
Isakson
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kleczka
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
LaHood
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lucas (KY)
Lucas (OK)
Lynch
Majette
Manzullo
Markay
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McInnis
McIntyre
McKeon
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Moore
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Napolitano
Nethercutt
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Oliver
Ortiz
Osborne

Ose
Otter
Owens
Oxley
Pastor
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Portman
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Quinn
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Renzi
Reynolds
Rodriguez
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Sandlin
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schrock
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stenholm
Strickland
Stupak
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner (OH)
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)

Upton
Van Hollen
Visclosky
Vitter
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Waters

Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Wexler
Whitfield

Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—52

Aderholt
Bell
Bilirakis
Brown, Corrine
Burr
Burton (IN)
Carson (IN)
Carson (OK)
Conyers
Crowley
Culberson
Davis (AL)
DeMint
Deutsch
Dooley (CA)
Ehlers
Fattah
Ford

Frost
Gephardt
Graves
Gutierrez
Hoefel
John
Kilpatrick
Lampson
Lantos
Lipinski
Lowey
Maloney
Meehan
Millender-
McDonald
Miller (FL)
Miller, George
Mollohan

Nadler
Neal (MA)
Pallone
Pascarell
Payne
Pelosi
Peterson (PA)
Reyes
Ruppersberger
Serrano
Shays
Taylor (NC)
Toomey
Turner (TX)
Velázquez
Watson
Woolsey

□ 1932

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I was regrettably delayed in my return to Washington, DC and therefore unable to be on the House Floor for rollcall votes 232, 233, 234 and 235. Had I been here I would have voted "yea" for rollcall vote 232, "yea" for rollcall vote 233, "yea" for rollcall vote 234, and "yea" for rollcall vote 235.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, personal reasons prevent me from being present for legislative business scheduled for today, Monday, June 14, 2004. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on H.J. Res. 97, legislation renewing the import restrictions contained in the Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003 (rollcall No. 232); "yea" on H. Res. 669, a resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the need to provide prostate cancer patients with meaningful access to information on treatment options (rollcall No. 233); "yea" H.R. 4323, providing the Secretary of Defense with rapid acquisition authority in times of combat emergencies (rollcall No. 234); and "yea" on H. Res. 653, a resolution honoring former President George Herbert Walker Bush on the occasion of his 80th birthday (rollcall No. 235).

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF
COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TIBERI) laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Resources:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

June 14, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
*Speaker of the House, U.S. Capitol, Wash-
ington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Effective immediately, I hereby resign my seat on the Committee on

□ 1925

Messrs. DELAHUNT, OWENS, PAS-
TOR, DEFAZIO, Mrs. JONES of Ohio,
Messrs. MARKEY, UDALL of Colorado,
BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. MAJETTE,
Messrs. JEFFERSON, BROWN of Ohio,
STRICKLAND, DICKS, BECERRA,
HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. ROYBAL-
ALLARD, Messrs. SHERMAN, ALLEN,
MEEK of Florida, Mrs. NAPOLITANO,
Ms. LOFGREN, Messrs. CUMMINGS,
DAVIS of Illinois, LEVIN, FARR, PE-
TERSON of Minnesota, DINGELL, Ms.
HARMAN, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of
California, Messrs. WYNN, CARDOZA,
MATSUI, STENHOLM, BOYD, FIL-
NER, Ms. DEGETTE, and Ms. HOOLEY
of Oregon changed their vote from
"yea" to "nay."

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING FORMER PRESIDENT
GEORGE HERBERT WALKER
BUSH ON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TIBERI). The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 653, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 653, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 381, nays 0, not voting 52, as follows:

[Roll No. 235]

YEAS—381

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Ballenger
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Beauprez
Becerra
Bereuter
Berkley
Berman

Berry
Biggert
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (OH)

Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Burgess
Burns
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carter
Case
Castle
Chabot
Chandler
Chocola

Resources, pending my appointment to the Committee on Government Reform.

Sincerely,

BETTY MCCOLLUM,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 670) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 670

Resolved, That the following named Members be and are hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE: Ms. Herseth (to rank immediately after Mr. Chandler).

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM: Ms. McCollum.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the additional motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote of the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken tomorrow.

ASSISTANCE FOR ORPHANS AND OTHER VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ACT OF 2004

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4061) to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide assistance for orphans and other vulnerable children in developing countries, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4061

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Assistance for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children in Developing Countries Act of 2004".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1)(A) According to estimates by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), there are more than 132,000,000 children in the world under the age of three.

(B) Of these children, 4,000,000 will die in their first month of life and another 7,000,000 will die each year before reaching the age of five. Thus an average of 30,000 children under the age of three die each day.

(2) According to a report developed by the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), UNICEF, and the United States Agency for International Development, in 2001 there were more than 110,000,000 orphans living in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

(3) Assessments carried out by the International Labor Organization (ILO) to investigate the situation of children who are working found that orphans are much more likely than non-orphans to be working in commercial agriculture, the domestic service industry, prostitution, as street vendors, or in industries that violate internationally recognized rights of children.

(4) Infants who are poor and malnourished are more likely to contract respiratory infections, diarrhea, measles, and other preventable diseases, and are less likely to receive needed health care.

(5) According to UNAIDS and UNICEF, by the end of 2001 there were an estimated 14,000,000 children under the age of 15 who had lost one or both parents to AIDS.

(6) As the number of HIV cases increases in sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean, as well as in Eastern Europe and Asia, the death rate from AIDS among adults in those regions is expected to increase. By 2010 the total number of children in those regions who will lose one or both parents to AIDS is expected to be approximately 30,000,000.

(7) One-third of children born from an HIV-infected mother develop HIV/AIDS. Few of these children have access to HIV/AIDS medications.

(8) Globally, more than 11,800,000 young people ages 15 to 24 were living with HIV/AIDS in 2001, and each day another 6,000 young people became infected with HIV. New estimates indicate that more than 70 percent of new HIV cases among this age group in sub-Saharan Africa are young women and girls.

(9) As their parents fall progressively sick from HIV/AIDS, children generally must take on an increasing number of responsibilities. Girls take responsibility for more household chores, often drop out of school, and care for their parents.

(10)(A) Without an adequate diet, individuals infected with HIV often die at an earlier age. Individuals with HIV become increasingly weak and fatigued, do not respond to drug treatment, and are prone to other illnesses such as malnutrition and tuberculosis (TB).

(B) Hunger can also cause previously HIV-negative people to engage in high-risk survival strategies that increase their chances of becoming infected with HIV.

(11) Extreme poverty and hunger coupled with the loss of one or both parents as a result of AIDS can force children from their families to a life on the streets, where the risk of HIV infection is extremely high.

(12)(A) A considerable number of United States and indigenous private voluntary organizations, including faith-based organizations, provide assistance to orphans and other vulnerable children in developing countries, especially children affected by HIV/AIDS.

(B) Many of these organizations have submitted applications for grants from the United States Agency for International Development in order to provide increased levels of assistance for orphans and other vulnerable children in developing countries but in most cases the Agency has not approved the applications.

(13)(A) Section 403(b) of the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-25) establishes the requirement that for fiscal years 2006 through 2008, not less than 10 percent of amounts appropriated for HIV/AIDS

assistance for each such fiscal year shall be expended for assistance for orphans and other vulnerable children affected by HIV/AIDS.

(B) Further, section 403(b) of Public Law 108-25 requires that at least 50 percent of such amounts shall be provided through non-profit, nongovernmental organizations, including faith-based organizations, that implement programs on the community level.

(14)(A) It is essential that the United States Government adopt a comprehensive approach for the provision of assistance to orphans and other vulnerable children in developing countries.

(B) This comprehensive approach should ensure that important services, such as basic care, treatment for those children with HIV/AIDS, mental health and related services for those children affected by HIV/AIDS, school food programs, increased educational opportunities and employment training and related services, and the protection and promotion of inheritance rights, are made more accessible.

(C) This comprehensive approach should also ensure that government agencies and the private sector coordinate efforts to prevent and eliminate duplication of efforts and waste.

(15) As a result of the numerous United States Government programs under which assistance is specifically authorized or otherwise available for orphans and vulnerable children in developing countries, the United States Agency for International Development will be required to develop innovative methods for the conduct and monitoring of these programs, including through the collection, analysis, and reporting of information on the programs and the extent to which such programs provide assistance directly and indirectly to such children.

SEC. 3. PURPOSE.

The primary purpose of this Act, and the amendments made by this Act, is to provide assistance to orphans and other vulnerable children, especially such children affected by HIV/AIDS, and in particular, for such children in countries heavily affected by HIV/AIDS. To the maximum extent practicable, such assistance shall be provided for the direct benefit to such orphaned and vulnerable children.

SEC. 4. ASSISTANCE FOR ORPHANS AND OTHER VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

Title V of chapter 2 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2201) is amended to read as follows:

"TITLE V—ASSISTANCE FOR ORPHANS AND OTHER VULNERABLE CHILDREN

"SEC. 241. FINDINGS; DECLARATION OF POLICY.

"(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

"(1) By 2010, HIV/AIDS will orphan more than 25,000,000 children worldwide.

"(2) Ongoing conflicts and civil wars in developing countries are adversely affecting children in these countries, the vast majority of whom currently do not receive humanitarian assistance or other support from the United States Government.

"(3) The United States Government currently administers assistance programs for orphans and other vulnerable children in developing countries. When requested by the Committee on International Relations of the House of Representatives to provide information on the overall number of orphans and other vulnerable children receiving assistance from the United States Agency for International Development in fiscal year 2002, the Agency was only able to report on its HIV/AIDS assistance program, under which the Agency provided assistance to 462,000 such orphans and other vulnerable children.

“(4) The United States Government should increase its efforts to provide assistance for orphans and other vulnerable children in developing countries, especially those children affected by HIV/AIDS or conflict.

“(5) The United States Agency for International Development should establish improved capacity to deliver assistance to orphans and other vulnerable children in developing countries through partnerships with private voluntary organizations, including faith-based organizations.

“(6) Further, the United States Agency for International Development should be the primary United States Government agency responsible for identifying and assisting orphans and other vulnerable children in developing countries.

“(b) **DECLARATION OF POLICY.**—Congress, recognizing that prompt and appropriate action by the United States to assist orphans and other vulnerable children in developing countries is an important expression of the humanitarian concern and tradition of the people of the United States, affirms the willingness of the United States to assist such orphans and other vulnerable children—

“(1) by providing assistance for the purpose of improving the health, nutritional, shelter, educational, economic, and psychological status of orphans and other vulnerable children in such countries; and

“(2) by providing humanitarian and protection assistance to such orphans and other vulnerable children affected by conflict or civil strife.

“SEC. 242. ASSISTANCE TO PROVIDE BASIC CARE.

“(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

“(1) The need for individuals and local organizations in developing countries to assist households headed by children is necessary due to the increase in the number of such households. Millions of children in these types of households lack basic care, such as access to food and shelter.

“(2) Although families and extended families serve as the primary providers of care for these children, when these family care networks break down, and when communities are responsible for raising orphans, these children are cared for in a rich and nurturing environment and remain connected to the traditions and rituals of families and the community.

“(3) As the number of these children increases, the ability of communities to provide basic care for such children is limited. Assistance to support the provision of such basic care is therefore necessary in and of itself and also to facilitate the provision of other types of assistance for such children under this title.

“(b) **ASSISTANCE.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The President is authorized to provide assistance for programs in developing countries to provide basic care for orphans and other vulnerable children.

“(2) **ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED.**—Assistance provided under paragraph (1) should be used—

“(A) to support individuals and local organizations, including teachers, social workers, and representatives from religious institutions and nongovernmental organizations, to mobilize their own resources through the strengthening of community care coalitions, networks, or support groups to provide basic care for orphans and other vulnerable children, including day care, food assistance, protection assistance, and home visits;

“(B) to increase the capacity of the community care groups described in subparagraph (A) to meet on a regular basis to identify orphans and other vulnerable children and to facilitate the provision of services; and

“(C) to ensure that the activities of community care groups described in subparagraph (A) include appropriate monitoring and supervision components.

“(3) **DEFINITION.**—In this subsection, the term ‘protection assistance’ means all appropriate measures to promote the physical and psychological security of an individual, provide equal access to basic services for the individual, and safeguard the legal and human rights and dignity of the individual.

“SEC. 243. ASSISTANCE TO PROVIDE TREATMENT TO ORPHANS AND OTHER VULNERABLE CHILDREN WITH HIV/AIDS.

“(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

“(1) Approximately 2,500,000 children under the age of 15 worldwide have HIV/AIDS. Every day another 2,000 children under the age of 15 are infected with HIV.

“(2) In 2002, approximately 2,500,000 children were at risk for infection with HIV through mother-to-child transmission, which includes transmission at any point during pregnancy, labor, delivery, or breastfeeding.

“(3) To date, more than 4,000,000 children worldwide are estimated to have died from AIDS, primarily contracted through mother-to-child transmission. Every year, approximately 700,000 babies are infected with HIV, of which the majority are living in Africa.

“(4) In southern Africa HIV/AIDS is now the leading cause of death among young children, accounting for almost half of such deaths.

“(5) Research has shown conclusively that initiation in a timely manner of antiretroviral therapy for infants or young children with HIV/AIDS can preserve or restore their immune functions, promote normal growth and development, and prolong life.

“(6) Few international development programs specifically target the treatment of children with HIV/AIDS in developing countries. Reasons for this include the perceived low priority of pediatric treatment, a lack of pediatric health care professionals, lack of expertise and experience in pediatric drug dosing and monitoring, the perceived complexity of pediatric treatment, and mistaken beliefs regarding the risks and benefits of pediatric treatment.

“(b) **ASSISTANCE.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The President is authorized to provide assistance for the treatment of orphans and other vulnerable children with HIV/AIDS in developing countries.

“(2) **ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED.**—Assistance provided under paragraph (1) should be used to carry out the following activities:

“(A) The treatment of orphans and other vulnerable children with HIV/AIDS through the provision of pharmaceuticals, including high-quality, low-cost antiretrovirals and other therapies, including generically manufactured pharmaceuticals where appropriate.

“(B)(i) The recruitment and training of individuals to provide the treatment described in subparagraph (A), including the recruitment and training of appropriate support personnel.

“(ii) Such training should include appropriate methodologies relating to initial diagnosis, appropriate dosages of pharmaceuticals, monitoring, medication adherence techniques, treatment for any complications resulting from such pharmaceuticals, and psychosocial support for vulnerable children and their caregivers.

“(C) Activities of medical laboratories relating to the treatment described in subparagraph (A), including assistance for the purchase of necessary equipment.

“SEC. 244. ASSISTANCE TO PROVIDE PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT TO ORPHANS AND OTHER VULNERABLE CHILDREN AFFECTED BY HIV/AIDS.

“(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

“(1) Many children who are orphaned as a result of AIDS blame themselves for the death of a parent and many children are separated from siblings, sometimes for life.

“(2) The trauma that results from the loss of a parent as a result of AIDS can trigger behavior problems of aggression or emotional withdrawal and negatively affect a child’s performance in school and the child’s social relations.

“(3) Children living in families affected by HIV/AIDS are often stigmatized, teased, and ostracized by peers.

“(4) Children living in families affected by HIV/AIDS who are most vulnerable are those children in households headed by children. In these households, trained community volunteers can play a major role through home visits.

“(5) In many African countries, religious leaders are mobilizing individuals and local organizations within the community to identify and respond to the psychosocial needs of those children affected by AIDS.

“(b) **ASSISTANCE.**—The President is authorized to provide assistance for programs in developing countries to provide culturally appropriate mental health services and psychosocial support for orphans and other vulnerable children, and their caregivers.

“SEC. 245. ASSISTANCE FOR SCHOOL FOOD PROGRAMS.

“(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

“(1) In 2004, it is estimated that 125,000,000 children worldwide do not attend school, in part because of hunger and malnutrition, and the vast majority of these children are young girls.

“(2) School food programs, including take-home rations, in developing countries provide strong incentives for parents to send their children to school and ensure that they continue with their education. School food programs may reduce short-term hunger, improve cognitive functions, and enhance learning, behavior, and achievement.

“(3) In 2004, more than 8,000,000 children in sub-Saharan Africa are underweight compared to 1994. Malnutrition enhances the risk that orphans and other vulnerable children will be at risk for illness and infections, especially if these children are also infected with HIV.

“(4) Healthy members of families affected by HIV/AIDS in developing countries often leave the workforce to care for those family members with HIV/AIDS, which compounds the problem of access to food for the family. Food consumption has been shown to drop by as much as 40 percent in these families.

“(5)(A) Although a number of organizations seek to meet the needs of children who are orphaned or vulnerable as a result of HIV/AIDS, immediate and extended families continue to be the primary providers of care and support for these children, and they need direct assistance urgently.

“(B) According to a survey by the United States Agency for International Development, orphans and other vulnerable children relied on relatives for food support 74 percent of the time and on friends for food support 19 percent of the time.

“(b) **ASSISTANCE.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The President is authorized to provide assistance for school food programs for orphans and vulnerable children in developing countries, especially in such countries heavily affected by HIV/AIDS.

“(2) **ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED.**—Assistance provided under paragraph (1) should be used

to purchase local or regional foodstuffs, where appropriate, for school food programs.

“SEC. 246. ASSISTANCE TO INCREASE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND PROVIDE EMPLOYMENT TRAINING.

“(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

“(1) The lack of financial resources in families affected by HIV/AIDS prevents many orphans and other vulnerable children in developing countries from attending school because of the requirement to pay school fees and other costs of education.

“(2) Such children, in particular young girls, are often forced to miss school in order to serve as caregivers to relatives with HIV/AIDS or assume adult responsibilities for providing for the family. Younger children who lose a parent also lose the opportunity to learn skills that they will need to support themselves as they grow older.

“(3) According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), approximately 250,000,000 children and adolescents ages 5 to 14 in developing countries are working part-time and approximately 120,000,000 children and adolescents ages 5 to 14 in developing countries are working full-time.

“(4) In many regions of Africa and other developing countries, non-formal education plays an important role to provide children who are unable to attend school with the employment and related life skills training such children need to survive.

“(5) Many organizations in Africa, including faith-based organizations, provide employment and related life skills training for older children to better prepare them to serve as caregivers for younger siblings.

“(6) Organizations that provide non-formal education can assist the thousands of children in developing countries who are not currently being assisted by families or communities and are struggling to survive.

“(b) ASSISTANCE.—

“(1) EDUCATION ASSISTANCE.—The President is authorized to provide assistance for programs in developing countries to decrease barriers to public primary school enrollment by eliminating school fees and other costs of education, especially in developing countries heavily affected by HIV/AIDS. Amounts made available to carry out this paragraph—

“(A) are authorized to be made available to the President for assistance or contributions to nongovernmental organizations and international organizations to achieve the purposes of this paragraph; and

“(B) shall not be used to pay school fees.

“(2) EMPLOYMENT TRAINING ASSISTANCE.—The President is authorized to provide assistance for programs in developing countries to provide employment training and related services for orphans and other vulnerable children who are of legal working age, especially for programs in developing countries heavily affected by HIV/AIDS.

“SEC. 247. ASSISTANCE TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE INHERITANCE RIGHTS.

“(a) FINDING.—Congress finds that orphans and other vulnerable children in developing countries, particularly children who are orphaned as a result of AIDS, are routinely denied their inheritance or encounter difficulties in claiming the land and other property which they have inherited.

“(b) ASSISTANCE.—The President is authorized to provide assistance in support of programs in developing countries to protect and promote the inheritance rights of orphans and other vulnerable children, particularly young girls and children who are orphaned as a result of AIDS.

“SEC. 248. ADMINISTRATION OF ASSISTANCE.

“(a) OFFICE FOR ORPHANS AND OTHER VULNERABLE CHILDREN.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the United States Agency for Inter-

national Development an Office for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children (hereafter in this title referred to as the ‘Office’), which shall be headed by a Director who shall be appointed by the Administrator of the Agency.

“(2) DUTIES.—The Office shall be responsible for carrying out this title.

“(b) APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS.—Subject to the requirements of subsection (e), the Director of the Office shall be responsible for reviewing or approving all applications submitted to the United States Agency for International Development for assistance under this title, including applications submitted to field missions of the Agency.

“(c) PRIORITY.—In providing assistance under this title, priority should be given to assistance for developing countries in which the rate of HIV infection, as reported in the most recent epidemiological data for that country compiled by the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), is at least 5 percent among women attending prenatal clinics or more than 15 percent among individuals in groups with high-risk behavior.

“(d) FORM OF ASSISTANCE.—Assistance under this title shall be provided in the form of—

“(1) grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts;

“(2) contributions to international organizations; or

“(3) assistance to the governments of developing countries.

“(e) COORDINATION.—The provision of assistance under this title for children who are orphaned as a result of HIV/AIDS, or are children with HIV/AIDS, shall be undertaken in accordance with section 104A of this Act and assistance relating to HIV/AIDS authorized under the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-25), including section 102 of such Act concerning the coordination of HIV/AIDS programs.

“(f) OTHER ASSISTANCE.—

“(1) REVIEW OR APPROVAL OF OTHER USAID ASSISTANCE.—The Director of the Office shall be responsible for reviewing or approving—

“(A) each component of the annual plan of a mission, bureau, or other office of the United States Agency for International Development as the component relates to assistance for orphans or other vulnerable children in developing countries; and

“(B) each program, project, or activity relating to such assistance.

“(2) COORDINATION OF ALL U.S. GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE.—The Director of the Office shall be responsible for ensuring coordination of all United States Government programs to provide assistance for orphans and other vulnerable children in developing countries.

“SEC. 249. MONITORING SYSTEM.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—In order to maximize the sustainable development impact of assistance authorized under this title, the President shall establish a monitoring system that meets the requirements of subsection (b).

“(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements referred to in subsection (a) are the following:

“(1) The monitoring system establishes performance goals for the assistance and expresses such goals in an objective and quantifiable form, to the extent feasible.

“(2) The monitoring system establishes performance indicators to be used in measuring or assessing the achievement of the performance goals described in paragraph (1).

“(3) The monitoring system provides a basis for recommendations for adjustments to the assistance to enhance the impact of the assistance.

“SEC. 250. REPORT.

“(a) REPORT.—Not later than December 31, 2005, and each December 31 thereafter, the

President shall transmit to Congress a report that contains a detailed description of the implementation of this title for the previous fiscal year.

“(b) CONTENTS.—The report shall contain the following information:

“(1) For each grant, cooperative agreement, contract, contribution, or other form of assistance awarded or entered into under this title—

“(A) the amount of the grant, cooperative agreement, contract, contribution, or other form of assistance, the name of each recipient and each developing country with respect to which projects or activities under the grant, cooperative agreement, contract, contribution, or other form of assistance were carried out, and the approximate number of orphans and other vulnerable children who received direct or indirect assistance under the projects or activities; and

“(B) the results of the monitoring system with respect to the grant, cooperative agreement, contract, contribution, or other form of assistance.

“(2) For each grant, cooperative agreement, contract, contribution, or other form of assistance awarded or entered into under any provision of law other than this title for assistance for orphans and other vulnerable children in developing countries, the information described in paragraph (1)(A).

“(3) Of the total amounts of assistance made available in each such fiscal year for orphans and other vulnerable children, the percentage of assistance provided in support of orphans or other vulnerable children affected by HIV/AIDS.

“(4) Any other appropriate information relating to the needs of orphans and other vulnerable children in developing countries that could be addressed through the provision of assistance under this title or under any other provision of law.

“SEC. 251. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.

“(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts made available to carry out the provisions of law described in paragraph (2), there are authorized to be appropriated to the President to carry out this title such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2005 and 2006.

“(2) PROVISIONS OF LAW.—The provisions of law referred to in paragraph (1) are the following:

“(A) The United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-25) and the amendments made by that Act.

“(B) Any other provision of law under which assistance is authorized for orphans and other vulnerable children in developing countries.

“(b) ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS.—

“(1) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations under subsection (a) are authorized to remain available until expended and are in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

“(2) MINIMUM FUNDING REQUIREMENT.—Not less than 60 percent of amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations under subsection (a) for a fiscal year (other than amounts made available for assistance to eliminate school fees and other costs of education pursuant to section 246) shall be provided through United States or indigenous private voluntary organizations that implement programs on the community level. Amounts provided by for-profit entities to not-for-profit entities from assistance under this title shall not be considered for purposes of satisfying the requirement of this paragraph.

“(3) ASSISTANCE UNDER OTHER PROVISIONS OF LAW.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, amounts made available for assistance for orphans or other vulnerable children in developing countries under any provision of law other than this title may be provided to further the purposes of this title.

“(B) REPORT.—To the extent assistance described in subparagraph (A) is provided in accordance with such subparagraph, the President shall include, as part of the report required under section 250, a detailed description of such assistance and, to the extent applicable, the information required by subsection (b)(1)(A) of such section with respect to such assistance.

“(4) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, amounts made available for assistance for orphans or other vulnerable children in developing countries under this title, or under any provision of law other than this title, may be made available for administrative expenses incurred in carrying out this title for a fiscal year in an amount not to exceed 7 percent of amounts made available for such fiscal year for such purpose under this title, or under such other provision of law, as the case may be.

“SEC. 252. DEFINITIONS.

“In this title:

“(1) AIDS.—The term ‘AIDS’ has the meaning given the term in section 104A(g)(1) of this Act.

“(2) CHILDREN.—The term ‘children’ means persons who have not attained the age of 18.

“(3) HIV.—The term ‘HIV’ has the meaning given the term in section 104A(g)(2) of this Act.

“(4) HIV/AIDS.—The term ‘HIV/AIDS’ has the meaning given the term in section 104A(g)(3) of this Act.

“(5) ORPHAN.—The term ‘orphan’ means a child deprived by death of one or both parents.

“(6) PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT.—The term ‘psychosocial support’ includes care that addresses the ongoing psychological and social problems that affect individuals, their partners, families, and caregivers in order to alleviate suffering, strengthen social ties and integration, provide emotional support, and promote coping strategies.

“(7) VULNERABLE CHILDREN.—The term ‘vulnerable children’ includes children who are neglected, destitute, abandoned, homeless, disabled, suffering from malnutrition, are sexually exploited or abused, or are displaced or otherwise adversely affected by armed conflict.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey). Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have five legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of the Assistance for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Childrens Act of 2004. This is an important bipartisan bill introduced by my good friend, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) and cosponsored by me as well as 84 other Members.

H.R. 4061 amends the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to create a new title, authorizing the provision of assistance to orphans and other vulnerable children in developing countries.

H.R. 4061 will prepare USAID for the important responsibility as established by Public Law 108-25, the United States leadership against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Act of 2003, which specifies that by the year 2006, not less than 10 percent of all HIV/AIDS monies must be programmed in support of the needs of orphans and vulnerable children affected by AIDS.

By the year 2010, Mr. Speaker, it is estimated that there will be 25 million children orphaned as a result of HIV/AIDS. Entire villages are already being affected by this pandemic. This bill recognizes that the United States Government will need to establish improved capacity to deliver assistance to such orphans and vulnerable children through partnerships with private voluntary organizations, including faith-based organizations.

H.R. 4061 will authorize the President to provide assistance for the care and the treatment of orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV/AIDS. It encourages the use of community care councils, of responsible citizens to identify the needs of and assist orphans in their communities instead of sending them off to orphanages or institutions.

As the number of orphans increases, the ability of communities to provide basic care for their children is limited. Assistance to support the provisions of basic care by communities is necessary, in addition to the assistance furnished directly by U.S. agencies through the President's initiative on AIDS and Public Law 108-25.

This bill also encourages the use of assistance to eliminate school fees in developing countries. This practice results in keeping orphans and vulnerable children out of school. Children of all circumstances should be in school and not kept out if they are affected by or infected with HIV/AIDS.

This legislation establishes greater accountability within USAID by establishing an Office for Orphans and Vulnerable Children that will have oversight of all programs for such children, not just AIDS orphans. It will enable USAID to adopt a more comprehensive approach to assisting children through the work of its field missions and through centrally managed activities.

In summary, H.R. 4061 creates accountable mechanisms within USAID. It will also ensure that other U.S. assistance for orphaned and vulnerable children is accountable, measurable and coordinated. H.R. 4061 promotes accountability and effectiveness of existing United States foreign assistance.

I seek Members' support for this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First of all let me just say I rise in support of this legislation. I want to thank the gentlewoman from Florida for her leadership and for her commitment to children throughout the world. Mr. Speaker, I also would like to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) along with my colleagues on the Committee on International Relations, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER), the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM) and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) for joining me to craft this very clear and very forward-moving bipartisan compromise agreement. Also I would like to thank them for helping us get it to the floor today.

I also would like to thank our staffs for their work in crafting this bill, including Pearl Alice Marsh of the office of the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), Christos Tsentas of my staff, and Peter Smith, who just recently actually left the Committee on International Relations. These members of our staffs and other staff on the Hill who have been working on this have worked on this not because it is part of their job only but because they really have a commitment to these children. I just want to thank them very much for their work.

I also would like to just mention briefly and thank the Global Action For Children Campaign and its members for working so passionately on behalf of this initiative.

This legislation seeks to better coordinate and comprehensively address the ever growing problem of orphans and vulnerable children in the developing world. As of 2001, an estimated 110 million children are living as orphans throughout sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. The rapid growth of HIV/AIDS in Africa and throughout the world has really dramatically impacted the number of children who are newly becoming orphans. In 2001, 34 million children, this is about 12 percent of all African children, were orphaned in sub-Saharan Africa. That is hard to imagine. Eleven million, or 32 percent of all African orphans, were orphaned as a result of AIDS. UNICEF recently released a report entitled “Africa's Orphaned Generations” on November 26, 2003. This report predicted that there would be, as the gentlewoman from Florida said, 20 million AIDS orphans in Africa by 2010 and that in a dozen countries 15 to 25 percent of children under 15 will have lost one or both parents to AIDS.

Today every 14 seconds another child is orphaned by AIDS. With parents dying at such an alarming rate, children are left quite frankly behind without food, without shelter, without education or protection. They are left to

fend for themselves. The global orphan crisis is a profound humanitarian disaster that will be felt for decades to come. This bill seeks to comprehensively address the growing global problem of orphans and vulnerable children by providing assistance to support the following activities:

Basic care through community care groups. Community care groups could be community care coalitions, they could be networks, they could be support groups, they could be orphanages but through the community is very important.

Treatment for HIV infected children is included in this bill.

Culturally appropriate psycho-social support which is very important for children who are orphans and who are vulnerable. That is included in this bill.

School food programs, lunch programs, nutrition programs, so important.

Expanding educational opportunities through the elimination of school fees.

Protecting inheritance rights for orphans and vulnerable children.

This bill seeks to do all of this and more under the new structure of a separate office within the United States Agency for International Development focused specifically on orphans and vulnerable children.

The bill was unanimously approved by the House Committee on International Relations on March 31. I am proud to say that we have bipartisan support, and now I believe it is nearly 100 Members of this body.

I strongly support the amendment which is in the nature of a substitute offered by the chairman and negotiated by our staffs, as it really does improve the bill in a number of very significant ways in order to address the real concerns of several Members and organizations, including USAID. We met several times with USAID, our staff, myself, and we have listened to their suggestions and have tried to incorporate as many of their suggestions into this amendment as we deemed possible. While I understand that the agency and some of the advocacy groups still have some concerns regarding the administrative provisions of the proposed Office for Orphans and Vulnerable Children, I believe that this compromise proposal really represents the best chance we have to deal with this issue in this Congress.

Each time, Mr. Speaker, that we bring a bill to the floor with regard to HIV/AIDS, like many of us here on this floor, we recognize that these bills are only but one small step forward. This bill is another one small step forward in addressing this pandemic. It is a step worthy of our support, a step that brings us closer to a solution.

Briefly let me just mention two bills which we have brought to this floor which were signed into law, which again were very small but significant steps: The Global AIDS and Tuberculosis Relief Act of 2000, signed by

President Bill Clinton; and the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Act of 2003, signed by President Bush. Our former colleague, Congressman Ron Dellums, sounded the alarms, suggested we look at an AIDS Marshall Plan and much of this AIDS Marshall plan we are looking at now as we move these very significant bills forward.

I am very proud of the fact that on this issue we have been able to work in a complete bipartisan fashion. We are committed to continue to work with USAID and our colleagues in the other body so that we can ensure that the needs of orphans and vulnerable children are properly taken care of through this bill. We have a moral duty, quite frankly, to provide for these children, these children who are really now victims of circumstance. As the world's most prosperous nation, we have an obligation to act. I am hopeful that as we pass this bill this evening we can encourage the other body to act quickly and to move this initiative forward so that we can get it enacted into law before the end of the 108th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I wish to add my appreciation to the gentlewoman from California for her leadership, compassion and spirit around these issues and to my friend and colleague the gentlewoman from Florida who has worked on these issues in her capacity, but also we share our passion through the Congressional Children's Caucus of which we both are chair and cochair on this very important journey to help children. I want to thank both of them for their leadership and acknowledge the pathway in which this legislation has taken.

I am reminded of the good work the staff has done and want to cite and associate myself with the gentlewoman from California's thanks to staff and to acknowledge, of course, again the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and his staff Alice Marsh; and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) and her staff Cathleen Harrington because I want to remind our colleagues of a very important congressional mission that we were able to travel on led by the gentlewoman from California just about a summer ago when we visited these sites that saw firsthand vulnerable children.

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The gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), myself, and as well the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN), we were led on what I thought was one of the more powerful stories. It was a follow-up to the Presidential mission that we went on in 1997 with the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), myself, and the gentle-

woman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK), again, looking at the vulnerability of those facing the HIV epidemic and as well looking at the crisis of some 40 million children being orphaned in sub-Saharan Africa and Africa over the next 5 years.

We have now come full circle, and this legislation is an answer long overdue to a very serious crisis in the world; and specifically it emphasizes assistance for orphans and vulnerable children in developing countries, but I do not think anyone can understand the fullness of what we were dealing with until they can go see and touch those children, homeless, without grandparents, without extended family, children caring for children, living in conditions that are unacceptable for the young life that they are, 12-year-olds taking care of 2-year-olds and 3-year-olds, 4-year-olds taking care of an ailing and dying relative, going into a home and seeing a father lying dying and a parent taking care of them and that parent as well in a condition unacceptable to care for children.

This bill, I believe, is the beginning answer to the crisis and the call for help and mercy by those around the world, and I might emphasize that it is a no-nonsense bill. It gets down to the bottom line, with basic care through the community, treatment for HIV-infected children, culturally appropriate psychological support, school food programs, expanding educational opportunities through the elimination of school fees, and protecting inheritance rights.

It is important to note that according to the estimates by the United Nations Children's Fund, there are more than 132 million children in the world under the age of 3, many vulnerable and cannot take care of themselves. It is interesting that we even saw a case of a 4-year-old, however, left to take care of a dying relative. Of these children, 4 million will die in their first month of life, and another 7 million will die each year before reaching the age of 5. Thus, an average of 30,000 children under the age of 3 die each day.

Infants who are poor and malnourished are more likely to contract respiratory infections, diarrhea, measles, and other preventable diseases, and are less likely to receive needed benefit care.

This legislation goes right to the heart of the matter and provides this very needed office, this independent freestanding office, that can focus its attention and resources on the needs of children.

Children are not our tomorrows; they are our todays. And helping to educate children, helping to inspire children and heal children and provide them comfort gives our world a future. Extreme poverty and hunger coupled with the loss of one or both parents as a result of AIDS can force children from their families and to life on the streets where the risk of HIV infection has

been extremely high. But the psychological support is what I think is very crucial.

And let me just say that we should make note tonight that this is not just about HIV/AIDS but it is about conflict. And I have just recently returned from Afghanistan to see the children who have suffered because of conflict, some without their parents. This office will deal with the children of Afghanistan, the children in Sudan. I just came back from the region but also was able to be told of the stories of children in Iraq, when visiting a hospital there, seeing the conditions that they are in. Many of them lost their family members and their parents in the conflict. Afghanistan, their family members, their parents, in the conflict. Sudan now with some 400,000 displaced refugees, 30,000 people dying a day. A crisis beyond our imagination. Children being orphaned. This office will deal with the conflict that we face every day in this world. If we cannot help our children, then whom can we help?

I rise to support this legislation and ask my colleagues to enthusiastically support it because, as I said, our children are not our tomorrows; they are our todays. I ask unanimous support for this legislation.

I am pleased to be here as the House considers H.R. 4061, the Assistance for Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Developing Countries Act of 2004. This bill was introduced to address the growing global crisis affecting orphans and vulnerable children. This bipartisan bill has the support of over 100 Members of Congress, including myself.

As Chair of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I am cognizant of the special needs of children in developing countries, and they have always been a top legislative priority. As of 2001, an estimated 110 million children were living as orphans throughout sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. The rapid growth of the HIV/AIDS virus in Africa and throughout the developing world has dramatically impacted the number of children who are newly becoming orphans. Today, another child is orphaned by AIDS every 14 seconds. With parents dying at an alarming rate, children are left without food, shelter, education or protection.

According to estimates by the United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF, there are more than 132 million children in the world under the age of 3. Of these children, 4 million will die in their first month of life and another 7 million will die each year before reaching the age of 5. Thus an average of 30,000 children under the age of 3 die each day.

According to a report developed by the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS, UNAIDS; UNICEF; and the United States Agency for International Development, in 2001 there were more than 110 million orphans living in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean.

Assessments carried out by the International Labor Organization, ILO, to investigate the situation of children who are working found that orphans are much more likely than non-orphans to be working in commercial agriculture, the domestic service industry, the commercial sex industry, as street vendors, or in industries

that violate internationally recognized rights of children.

Infants who are poor and malnourished are more likely to contract respiratory infections, diarrhea, measles, and other preventable diseases, and are less likely to receive needed health care.

This bill creates a separate office within the United States Agency for International Development to better coordinate and focus our foreign assistance programs on orphaned and vulnerable children, especially children who are affected by HIV/AIDS. This new office would emphasize support for programs that are intended to provide a comprehensive response to the growing global crisis, including basic care through the community, treatment for HIV-infected children, psychosocial support services, expanding educational opportunities through the elimination of school fees and protection for the inheritance rights of orphans and vulnerable children.

This is truly a global crisis, and it demands our attention. I urge you to join in this support of this important initiative.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentlewoman from Texas for her very eloquent statement, also for her leadership and her passion and for her commitment to children not only in our own country but throughout the world.

Let me take a minute, Mr. Speaker, to mention some of the projects actually that the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), myself, and others have had the opportunity, a real privilege, to visit in Africa. We have become familiar with the work of many, many tireless individuals, committed individuals in Africa. We have met with many here in our own country. We have met on the Committee on International Relations and discussed these efforts. These individuals with barely a nickel have been able to do phenomenal work, and all of these projects that I am going to mention are led by very dynamic individuals who really continue to serve as a testament to what one person, one person, can accomplish when they have the determination and the compassion to care for their fellow human beings.

The first project, the Mother of Peace Orphanage Community in Mutoko, Zimbabwe, is one that I have become quite familiar with. Founded in 1994 by Ms. Jean Cornneck, or Mama Jean as some of us call her, the children call her that also and they are the ones who actually coined Mama Jean as her name because she truly is the mother of peace. The Mother of Peace Community provides care, support, and shelter to over 170 children. The community builds basic family-style homes, each accommodating two to three caregivers and 10 to 15 children who are brought up in Zimbabwean culture. At present there are 11 of these houses. Mother of Peace also benefits members of the adjacent rural community through its farming and building activities in the community.

It also plays a very huge role in the World Health Organization's Mutoko

Poverty Alleviation and Sustainable Development Pilot Project. And I am proud to say that my own church, the Allen Temple Baptist Church, led by a great leader, Pastor J. Alfred Smith, Sr., has provided the impetus for the involvement of our community and the community in our country. And thanks to the leadership of Dr. Robert Scott and Gloria Cox Crowell, this church has set up an AIDS ministry to provide regular donations and to organize visits by our congregation to the orphanage community. It is an incredible program, and it is really a testament to how much good can be done on a shoestring budget by committed groups of people.

The second program that I would like to talk about is the Bwafwano Home-based Care Organization, run by Beatrice Chola, whom I met when I traveled to Zambia last year. Working as a nurse in the Chipata health center of Lusaka, Beatrice started Bwafwano back in 1996 when she saw that the health center was overrun with HIV and AIDS and also with TB-infected patients. She recognized the strain that the Chipata health center was under, and she saw that the needs of these HIV and TB-infected patients were not being met. So she joined with several other community members to found the Bwafwano Home-based Care Organization, which literally means "helping one another."

Today, thanks to her leadership, Bwafwano has mushroomed into a comprehensive community care organization offering medical services, volunteer testing and counseling for HIV, schooling, home-based care, and poverty reduction and income generation programs. Since its inception, Bwafwano has trained over 300 community health workers and is currently providing home-based care to over 1,300 HIV and AIDS patients and directly observed treatment to more than 180 TB-infected patients. In addition, the organization is caring for over 1,100 orphans and vulnerable children.

When I was there in August of last year, Beatrice was struggling to find just basic ways to provide school uniforms to the children that she was caring for, which was an impediment for these children to go to school, and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN), and I met with these young people; and they were not able to go to school for one reason, and that is they did not have any uniforms. And I am proud to say and pleased to say that they do have their uniforms now so they can attend school just like any child in the community. Thankfully, again, as I said, she did receive the donation of about 300 school uniforms, but she still needs a lot of help.

And of course I would like to mention the Nyumbani orphanages in Nairobi, Kenya, and I know many of us are familiar with Nyumbani. Founded in 1992 by Father Angelo D'Agostino,

Nyumbani initially reached only a handful of orphans because of limited resources; but thanks to the unwavering commitment of Father D'Agostino, who worked hard to raise awareness about the needs of these orphaned children, Nyumbani now provides shelter and care and nutrition, education, psychological and social services to over 100 children on-site.

But the work of Nyumbani does not stop there, as they reach out to the surrounding community to provide major assistance to nearly 800 HIV-positive children who are part of the Lea Toto Community Outreach Program in the slums of Nairobi. With the care and the devotion of the staff and all of its volunteers, Nyumbani now saves lives of most of these children while providing a model of care for nations trying to deal with their own growing HIV/AIDS epidemic.

These three incredible programs, Mama Jean, Beatrice, Father Angelo D'Agostino, they are led by three dynamic and committed people; and they are proof that despite poverty, despite hardship, despite the odds, good programs can be created even in the most difficult settings. So it is programs like these that deserve our support.

We had the opportunity to travel to South Africa and Mozambique with Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson in 2002. Once again it was a bipartisan delegation, and we visited several orphanages and saw exactly what many of the needs of these children were, and we took into consideration in writing this bill some of the recommendations and some of the ideas which we received not from ourselves necessarily but from what the African people told us, what African leaders, what the organizations told us that they needed. We are pleased to note that once again this has been a bipartisan effort.

This is a humanitarian crisis of enormous catastrophe, really. It is a potential disaster, and we are trying to just on both sides of the House figure out a way to deal with it. In the bill we say in closing, "Congress recognizing the need and prompt action by the United States to assist orphans and other vulnerable children in developing countries is an important expression of the humanitarian concern and the tradition of the people of the United States. We affirm the willingness of the United States to assist such orphans and other vulnerable children."

And with that, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Florida. I want to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), our ranking member, for helping us through very difficult negotiations; but once again we are here with another small piece of our efforts to stop this pandemic.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4061. This bill is a step forward in giving hope to orphans and defenseless children in developing countries. In

2001 it was reported that there were over 110 million orphans in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Many of these children become orphans due to the loss of their parents to HIV/AIDS. By the end of 2001 an estimated 14 million children under the age of 15 had lost one or both parents to AIDS. This number is expected to increase to approximately 30 million children by 2010, due to the increase of HIV cases in sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean. Many of these orphans who lose their parents to HIV/AIDS are also at risk of being infected with the disease and ultimately die due to lack of access to health care. It is estimated that one-third of the children born from HIV-infected mothers develop HIV/AIDS. In 2001 more than 11.8 million young people ages 15 to 24 were living with HIV/AIDS. Every day another 2,000 children under the age of 15 will be infected with HIV in these areas. Approximately more than 4 million children have died from AIDS primarily through mother-to-child transmission.

A lot of these orphans at a very young age become head of households with the burden of providing for their young siblings and sometimes grandparents who were dependent on their parents before they die. Due to this, many of these orphans are subject to working in commercial agriculture, domestic service industry, commercial sex industry, as street vendors or in industries that violate internationally recognized rights of children. Most of the orphans who have to work are young women and girls who usually end up in commercial sex industries, making them at risk of being infected with various diseases especially HIV/AIDS. It is estimated that more than 70 percent of new HIV cases among young orphans ages 15 to 24 in sub-Saharan Africa are young women and girls.

Many of these children are malnourished due to lack of food, which enhances their risk for illness and infection to diseases. Due to lack of health access, many of these children will die of these illnesses or diseases. In 2004 more than 8 million children in sub-Saharan Africa are underweight compared to 1994. A lot of these children lack education because they have to work to fend for their families instead of going to school, they are not physically fit due to hunger and malnutrition, and they do not have the financial resources to go to school. Approximately 125 million children do not attend school and the majority of these children are young girls.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution will provide the funds needed for the basic care, health care, mental care and educational opportunities for these orphans and vulnerable children in order for them to survive in the world. Our children are our future. We need to give these children a chance to be the future of their countries and the world. I urge strong support of this resolution.

Mr. KOLBE. I rise to express great concern about this bill. At first glance, it would seem to support objectives that we could all get behind, on both sides of the aisle. After all, who could object to assisting orphans—especially those who have had their lives torn apart by HIV/AIDS?

In fact, I have little problem with the provisions of the bill if taken separately. School food programs, HIV/AIDS treatment, training—these are all promising approaches for helping some of the most needy people in the world.

My concern is with how this bill would achieve these worthy objectives.

As Chairman of the Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, I have had the privilege of managing legislation to support a variety of HIV/AIDS programs. Last August, this House approved roughly \$1.6 billion for the Global HIV/AIDS Initiative, and I believe we took the right approach by insisting that these funds be spent in a focused, accountable way. The Global AIDS Coordinator has been working to establish clear indicators for the use of his funds, and I'm encouraged by his progress.

This bill would walk back much of this progress. It mixes authorities that already exist, such as providing AIDS treatment for orphans, with new, overly broad authorities. If passed, this bill would open the Global AIDS Coordinator's funds to any school fee waiver program and any school food program—even if there is no AIDS component. Instead of a focused, results-driven AIDS program, as we have now, the Global AIDS Initiative would become just another development assistance program—business as usual.

In addition, this bill would establish a new OVC coordinator at USAID—a new coordinator whose authorities are poorly defined and whose relationship to the Global AIDS Coordinator is confusing at best. These kids do not need additional bureaucracy to get help.

Finally, this bill authorizes contributions to UNICEF for a program to reduce the costs of going to school in developing countries. I have received several letters from Members of Congress requesting \$250 million for such a program. It's important to understand that UNICEF would probably simply transfer funds to foreign governments to offset the loss of fees they would normally receive from students. Thus we would be creating a new program of cash assistance for foreign governments—not something we ought to do unless we know a lot about what we would get for our cash, and what accountability we would receive from foreign governments.

The Administration did not request this money, and we do not have it. We cannot expect UNICEF to absorb such a directive, and it's frankly unfair to authorize a program that we know cannot be funded.

Serious revisions need to be made to this legislation. I do not support it in its current form.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in regards to H.R. 4061, the Assistance for Orphans and Vulnerable Children Act of 2004, which passed the House International Relations Committee by unanimous consent on March 31. On May 5 the International Relations Committee filed H. Rept. 108–479.

Because House rules prohibit the addition of co-sponsors to a bill once the committee report has been filed, I am not able to formally add another Member of Congress as a co-sponsor of this legislation.

I ask that the RECORD show that Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts is in support of my bill and should be considered by this body as a co-sponsor of H.R. 4061.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4061, to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide Assistance for Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children in Developing Countries.

This amendment is so crucial in that it provides targeted comprehensive assistance to those who definitely cannot help themselves.

Orphans and other vulnerable children are deprived of the single most important factor in their lives—their family or their parents.

By 2010, an estimated 106 million children under age 15 are projected to lose one or both parents. Among them, the number of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS is expected to jump to more than 25 million.

These orphans and other vulnerable children now live throughout sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. Conflict has orphaned or separated 1 million children from their families in the 1990s.

H.R. 4061 would help communities to ensure that orphans and other vulnerable children have a secure and healthy childhood by providing essential services, such as basic care, health services including treatment for children with HIV/AIDS, mental health care, school food programs, and job training.

Orphans and other vulnerable children are not especially visible because millions of children are dispersed over many families, in communities where the hardships of individual children are lost from sight.

H.R. 4061 will increase access to needed services, ensure parity for orphans and other vulnerable children and build local capacity for effective decentralization and targeting of services as well as multisectoral coordination among service providers.

H.R. 4061 would allow for school fees to be waived providing a free basic education policy for millions of orphans and vulnerable children, many of whom had never enrolled in school or had dropped out because they simply could not afford the school fees.

Due to their status, these children are often most vulnerable and at risk of becoming victims of violence, exploitation, trafficking, discrimination or other abuses. Unaccompanied girls are at especially high risk of sexual abuse.

Children orphaned by AIDS are themselves particularly vulnerable to infection because they often have no one to care for or protect them, or any means of earning a living.

A 2001 report by the International Crisis Group found that “young people with no job, no income, and no family to support them are at risk of joining, or being abducted by local militias.”

A young Sierra Leone youth told an audience at the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Children, “We want a better life. We want peace. We are counting on your governments and the UN’s continued support for help.”

H.R. 4061 would provide the help this young boy so desperately needs. I urge full passage of this amendment.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I commend the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for this wonderful bill; we look forward to its passage; and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4061, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JOBS AND THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month the President of the United States made another trip to my State of Ohio to argue for and try to justify his economic policy.

Ohio has lost one out of six manufacturing jobs since George Bush took office. Ohio has lost almost 200 jobs every single day of the Bush administration. Yet the President’s answer invariably is more tax cuts for the wealthiest people, the most privileged people in the country, hoping that it trickles down and creates jobs. His other answer is more trade agreements, like the North American Free Trade Agreement, that continue to send jobs, continuing to hemorrhage jobs out of the country.

Mr. Speaker, instead of these failed economic policies that have cost Ohio more than 200,000 jobs, we need to extend unemployment benefits, pass Crane-Rangel that actually gives benefits and rewards those companies that manufacture in the United States rather than giving tax breaks to those companies that continue to ship jobs overseas.

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SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

ENERGY LEGISLATION NEEDED NOW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, often perception does not match reality. I believe that this is true in regard to our present economy.

Many would characterize the economy as very poor. However, as we can see on the following chart, short-term interest rates are the lowest in 40 years; inflation, according to the Producer Price Index, was 1.5 percent over the last 12 months; productivity expanded 5 percent the last four quarters, the highest in 20 years; manufacturing employment reached a 30-year high in May with orders up for manufacturing; and home ownership was 68.6 percent last quarter, which is a record.

All of these things would indicate a strong economy, so what is the problem? Why do people continually talk about what a bad economy we have? I would say that probably the main con-

cern that we hear is simply what one of the previous speakers referred to, unemployment.

I would like to call attention to the fact that during the 1970s, the unemployment rate was 6.2 percent for that 10-year average; during the 1980s, it was 7.3 percent; during the 1990s, it was 5.8 percent; and, today, in 2004, it stands at 5.6 percent. We added 248,000 new jobs to the economy in the month of May, and during the last 9 months of consecutive growth, we have added 1.5 million jobs to the economy.

Certainly this 5.6 percent rate is considerably lower than the 30-year average of 6.4 percent. Currently unemployment in the European Union runs 9 to 10 percent. So we see some remarkable gains, and it appears that even though we would hope that unemployment would be zero, we are at least moving certainly in the right direction.

This does not mean that the economy is not without challenge. We feel that there is one significant issue that needs to be dealt with, and that is the issue of energy policy. This is well within the purview and the domain of this particular body.

Currently we have higher energy prices, which affects trucking, airlines, agriculture, small business, manufacturing and individuals. Yet we cannot get an energy bill passed, even though there is widespread agreement on most of the provisions in the bill. I am going to put some of those issues up here that we think are a matter of considerable consensus.

In the energy bill that has been passed by the House and the Senate, yet we cannot get a conference report agreed upon, is the renewable fuel standard, which provides for wind energy, solar energy, ethanol, biodiesel, hydro, all environmentally friendly and will move us away from energy dependence upon OPEC. Also hydrogen fuel cell development is critical. This is environmentally friendly and is not dependent on petroleum.

The Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline, we have all kinds of natural gas available in our country today, particularly in Alaska, and we cannot access it, so this pipeline is critical to reducing natural gas prices, which are eating us up at the present time.

Finally, incentives to increase energy production. We have shut down our exploration and energy production, and that has certainly hurt the economy.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, the economy is strong, and Congress can fix the biggest obstacle to a period of sustained growth, the lack of a comprehensive energy policy. We can continue to blame the other party, Republicans blame Democrats, Democrats blame Republicans, we can blame the other body, they can blame us. We can do all of the finger pointing we want out there, but the buck really stops here. It is our responsibility, and the American people have every right to expect Congress to put the country’s welfare ahead of partisanship.

We need an energy bill passed, and we need it passed now. We can start on that this week. I am hoping that all of us here in this Congress can work together to put the national interests ahead of anything else and get this finished. There really are no excuses for not doing so.

RENEWING THE ASSAULT WEAPON BAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, assault weapons go back on to the streets of America in 3 months. Time is running out to protect our police officers, our communities and our children. After September 13, criminals, drug dealers and gangs will be able to go and buy their assault weapons.

In this past week, we certainly brought back memories of President Ronald Reagan. I remember his contributions to gun safety. He understood the dangers of assault weapons, which is why he ushered in one of the first bans on military-style weapons, banning the importation of rapid fire shotguns. In 1989, President George H.W. Bush expanded this list to include 43 other assault weapons.

By 1994, with the country facing, unfortunately, a wave of mass shootings throughout this country, Congress finally banned the production or sale of new assault weapons. In a joint letter to the House Members pushing for passage of the ban, former President Reagan said, "We urge you to listen to the American public and to the law enforcement community and support a ban on the further manufacture of these weapons." As usual, President Reagan said it best.

Renewing the assault weapon ban is about the safety of our police, our children and our communities. Congress only has 28 more working days in which to renew the assault weapon ban.

Let me say this: When you think about the American people, when you think about police throughout this country, who are now lobbying the Members of Congress and the Senate to have this bill come up on the floor for a vote, and yet we still hear nothing. President Bush today has actually said that he would sign the bill if it gets on his desk.

Let me say this: This House needs to bring the bill up on to the floor for a vote so that it can go to the President's desk. The American people have to get involved in this issue. They have to contact their Members of Congress in the House and Senate.

We need to talk about what assault weapons can do. We need to talk about what the health care costs will be from the damage done if assault weapons are back on our streets. We need to talk about how many of our police in the

past have been killed because they were outgunned because of assault weapons. We need to remember our history to know why we passed the assault weapon ban 10 years ago.

We cannot allow this to sunset. We must make sure the assault weapon ban is kept in place. It is for the safety of our communities, our children, our police officers. The American people are always saying they have no part in government. You can have a part in government, but you have to become involved. You have to have your voices heard.

I will stand here every Tuesday, Monday, whenever, to make sure that the American people hear this message.

Today, June 14, is my son's birthday. Going back 10 years ago, when a mad man came onto a train and shot and killed my husband and shot my son in the head, we never thought Kevin would live. The criminal at that time had large capacity clips which could hold 14 bullets.

Some say it would not have made any difference on the Long Island massacre. Well, with the ban that is in place, even though it is 10 bullets in a clip, if you could talk to the people at the end of the train that lost their lives, if we had the 10-bullet ban in place, if we had the assault weapon ban in place, maybe we would have had a few of our people that would have lived that day.

I celebrate my son's birthday. It is a miracle that he is alive. That is why I came to Congress, to reduce gun violence in this country. I started my career by lobbying to make sure the assault weapon ban got in place here in Congress. I will continue to fight to make sure the assault weapon ban stays in place.

PROVIDING IRAQIS WITH BETTER OPPORTUNITIES THAN AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, last week the Associated Press reported that Iraqis are paying 5 cents a gallon for gas in Iraq, 5 cents. Why are Iraqis getting such a good deal? Because the American taxpayer is subsidizing the Iraqis to the tune of \$167 million a month, approximately \$500 million over 3 months.

Here in the United States on average Americans are paying over \$2 a gallon for gas, up approximately 50 cents since the beginning of the war in Iraq. Fill up a car with gas, a little north of \$50; yet in Iraq to do the same costs you about a dollar, what would cost us here \$50. We are subsidizing them, the American taxpayer, to the tune of \$167 million a month. Here in the United States, what have we done? Nothing.

I am not against building and rebuilding Iraq after the war, but I am opposed to providing Iraqis with a better opportunity than we provide Amer-

icans, and I am not just talking about gas prices.

Take health care. They have health care. We have opened up 150 health clinics and hospitals throughout Iraq, providing 100,000 with prenatal and infant coverage costing Americans taxpayers \$1 billion. In the United States, 44 million Americans are without health insurance; 33 million Americans work full-time without health care; 10 million American children are without health care. What do we do?

In the area of jobs, in Iraq we provide universal job training. In the United States, under the President's budget we cut \$238 million from job training programs.

Veterans in Iraq, \$60 million is being spent to train the Iraqi veterans from past wars.

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In the United States, under the President's budget, we are cutting \$257 million from American veterans medical care.

In the area of education, in Iraq, we built 2,300 schools. In America, under the President's budget, we have underfunded by \$8 billion the Leave No Child Behind Act. In Iraq, universities are receiving \$20 million for higher education partnerships. In America, we have cut Perkins loans by \$90 million and frozen the Pell grants for 3 years in a row. That is the President's budget.

Police. In Iraq, we are spending \$500 million to retrain the police on security. In the United States, the COPS program for community policing throughout our country, supporting police officers, we have cut in the President's budget by \$659 million.

In the area of housing, in Iraq, we are spending \$470 million for public housing. In the United States, under the President's budget, we cut \$791 million from section 8.

The environment, \$3.6 billion in Iraq for water and sewer. In America, the President's budget cuts \$500 million from the revolving fund.

For roads, in Iraq, we are spending \$240 million on new roads and bridges. In America, the Army Corps of Engineers' budget is cut by 10 percent.

We could go on and on with program after program. My colleagues know that in the election of 2000, then Governor Bush, now President Bush, declared he was opposed to nation-building. Who knew it was America he was talking about when he said he was opposed to nation-building? But the good news is that in the 2004 reelection, President Bush can say he kept his commitment in opposition to nation-building. The problem is, it is here at home.

What do we have here at home? We have a higher unemployment rate than when he took office; more uninsured; college costs soaring now by 10 or 12 percent a year, on average. Health care costs for a family of four was \$6,500 3 years ago; today it is \$9,000. Yet in Iraq in the areas of health care, education,

job training, housing, and the environment, we are making investments that we do not promise here at home.

This administration has two priorities, two sets of values, two sets of books: one for Iraq and one for America.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are the most generous people in the world, but we can no longer afford to be so generous if our hope for a prosperous tomorrow for our children is diminished and less than the one we promise the people overseas. We cannot deny Americans the same dreams of affordable health care, quality education, a safe place to live that we promised the Iraqis, but denied the American people. The same values that we hold for Iraq we must pledge for every American as well.

It is time that we look at the energy crisis we have in this country and ask the American taxpayers to subsidize 5 cents a gallon in Iraq while we pay north of 2 bucks a gallon here in the United States, while we say to our children, you should graduate college with a \$16,000 bill and yet provide universal health care and higher education to Iraqis. We can do better; we need to do better.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

RECORD TRADE DEFICITS UNDER BUSH ADMINISTRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFazio) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFazio. Mr. Speaker, today the Bush administration set yet another record. Congratulations. They announced a new record trade deficit for April, which puts the United States on track for yet a new annual record in trade.

Now, what does that mean to average Americans? Well, first off, it means that we are outsourcing jobs overseas, outsourcing capital overseas, losing jobs and productivity here; and we are going in debt to China and Japan and other nations. China has \$122 billion of U.S. Treasury bonds; Japan owns \$440 billion. They are getting to a point where they will be able to influence our economy and our interest rates in the United States and our currency. This is worrisome.

The loss equals about \$1.5 billion a day in U.S. wealth; \$1 million a minute being hemorrhaged overseas.

Now, when one is confronted with a policy that is failing, one usually would begin to rethink that policy. But no, not the Bush administration. As we know, they are very stubborn; and they are never wrong. In the case of trade, they think that there are tremendous benefits to the United States by outsourcing, exporting jobs, putting people here out of work. In fact, the President's own economic adviser in the annual report of the President of the United States said as much. He said that this was a good thing that jobs were being outsourced. It was a new manifestation of the radical free trade policies that they believe in down there at the White House.

Now, the problem, of course, goes beyond just the outsourcing of jobs and loss of capital. It is ultimately undermining the national and economic security of the United States of America. As we lose our productive capacity in critical areas, we are going to have a hard time replacing those in a future time of crisis, whether it is with China or somebody else who will have captured much of that productive capacity, those critical skills that go with those capacities.

I sat next to a gentleman on the plane last week going back to Oregon who works in the titanium industry; and he is very concerned about the loss of U.S. capabilities in critical metals, and very concerned that China is now leaping ahead in many areas, and if we should ever get into a conflict or an adversarial situation with China in the future, we would be at a disadvantage.

But this administration thinks, in fact, that this is all really great, because a few people are getting really rich. The CEOs are doing great. So what if salaries are down, wages are down, jobs are lost here in the United States of America. The CEOs or the contributor class. The Bush Pioneers and Rangers, those who can gather up \$250,000 or \$1 million for the President's reelection, are telling him, this is great, their bonuses are up, they are doing well, their friends at the country club are doing well; and we can just maybe change the subject when it comes to average Americans. Maybe we can distract them with something else so they will not realize how screwed they are. I hope not. I hope that Americans next fall express their opinion of these radical free trade policies, the huge trade deficits, the outsourcing of jobs, the CEO class who earn 600 and 700 times what their workers earn.

Mr. Speaker, this is a scandal, what we are doing; and it is undermining our country. And the President, if reelected, says one of the first things he is going to do is expand NAFTA, the job-losing NAFTA agreements, to all of Latin and South America. Just think of the opportunity. They pretend it means we will export things there, but they know it does not. It means the

same thing as all of the other trade agreements. It means U.S. companies can locate there to exploit cheaper labor and lay off people here at home. But ultimately, who is going to be able to consume things here in the United States of America when the middle class is not working anymore? Ultimately, they are going to undo the entire system of the United States of America, but they do not really seem to care much about that.

They announced a big victory just yesterday, that is, that Mexican trucks, unsafe Mexican trucks that weigh two times as much as U.S. trucks, that are bigger, that are driven by people who do not take drug tests, do not have U.S. commercial drivers licenses, do not have the same rest time requirements, do not have in many cases front brakes, will be rumbling down the U.S. highways soon. They announced a great victory when the Supreme Court threw out a case that would restrict Mexican trucks from coming into the United States. Again, something else very shortsighted and very much against the interests of average Americans and working Americans.

CALLING ON THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION FOR CLEAR FOREIGN POLICY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I wondered how I would begin this evening inasmuch as this past week we honored a fallen President, and I wanted to ensure that the respect of that week continued. So I simply say that it is important, if we remember anything from the honor that was given to President Ronald Wilson Reagan, the 40th President of the United States, it might be, among many, many things that were said last week is his ability to convince and convey by words and diplomacy and particularly what is attributed to him, along with others that he helped inspire, is the ability to tear down the Iron Curtain, to break through the wall of Communism, and to do so, as has been said very frequently, without one single bullet being fired.

I think that is an appropriate backdrop for the pain and anguish with which I come to the floor this evening, and that is to again speak of the tumultuous activities and events and incidences that are occurring now in the Middle East but, in particular, in Iraq.

It is represented to us that the insurgents are increasing their activity, their brutality, their bloodshed because of the potential transition of government. But I believe it is crucial for this administration to do several things: one, to again address this body of Congress to be able to enunciate and to provide information on just what

our strategy is going to be post-June 30. We have a hostage being held in Saudi Arabia, al Qaeda is in its height of activity, bloodshed is occurring in Baghdad and around Iraq on a most frequent basis. Conflict has not yet been resolved, and there is, I believe, confusion within the Defense Department, the leadership, Secretary Rumsfeld whom we have asked on repeated occasions to resign in light of Abu Ghraib and the continued abuses that we hear of, and the lack of direction. There is no response from the administration. That is, I think, intolerable.

Let me also ask of the administration, as we have asked those of us who are aware of the crisis in Sudan that we should not stand by and watch as we watched in Rwanda. We know that some 40,000 people are now being displaced. Even while the government out of Khartoum is negotiating a peace treaty in Kenya, we know that violence has broken out again. Children are dying, women are being mutilated and raped and brutalized, and there is Muslim on Muslim murder, Arab Muslims, the rebels killing and destroying villages where black Muslims live. There may be no peace, there cannot be any peace until this matter is resolved.

The Congressional Black Caucus, and I wish to express my appreciation to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) for his leadership; we expect to meet with the U.N. envoy to Sudan to be able to get a full and direct explanation as to why the Government of Sudan cannot immediately cease this violence. That is the concern I have when the United States has immersed itself in conflicts that it cannot get out of. That means that when there is a need for humanitarian aid for our military personnel to be able to save lives, we are so stretched that we cannot do it.

I might say to my colleagues as we are about to meet and greet again the President of Afghanistan and thank him for his great leadership, he too needs our additional assistance as we begin to move toward an election in September. Greater assistance is needed for our troops who are there in Afghanistan, and some of their actions have been actually forgotten, because we will be moving to an election; and it will be difficult in Afghanistan in order to provide for the safety and security of those voters and those who will be registering to vote.

So, Mr. Speaker, what I am concerned about is the fact that we are so immersed in the conflict, it seems frustrating, confusing, and unending in Iraq, we then leave ourselves vulnerable to not being able to provide assistance to the people in Afghanistan, moving toward a peaceful election and certainly the crisis, brutality, and murder in Sudan, would leave us simply crying and wallowing in our own tears, because every day, 30,000 people are being killed in Sudan.

So I ask the administration to give us some direction in Iraq, let the Con-

gress know just what the road map is, because the killing by insurgents is not something that we should tolerate. Give us some direction in Afghanistan to know that we have the amount of troops there to provide for the safe and secure voting and elections and people being allowed to register without being killed and intimidated and frightened away from registering to vote. Women should not be kept away from voting.

Then of course in Sudan, it cannot be another Rwanda; it cannot show itself to be a continuing killing field. One million in Rwanda, 2 million already dead in Sudan, thinking that we have a peace treaty but, in fact, we should say to America, we do not.

I know that my colleagues are sympathetic to the idea that when brutality and murder go on innocent people, and it is happening in Sudan. I would ask the administration now to make a strong and potent statement, Secretary Powell, in order for the Government of Sudan to immediately cease this kind of bloodshed going on. While they give the impression that they are engaging in peace treaties in Kenya, people are dying in their country, and it is becoming a killing field, and we cannot tolerate it and we must not tolerate it.

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So we ask not only for mercy, we ask for relief. So we ask for this Congress and this administration to become engaged.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4503, ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2004, AND H.R. 4517, UNITED STATES REFINERY REVITALIZATION ACT OF 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington (during the special order of Mr. HENSARLING), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-539) on the resolution (H. Res. 671) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4503) to enhance energy conservation and research and development, to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes, and for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4517) to provide incentives to increase refinery capacity in the United States, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4513, RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT SITING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2004 AND FOR H.R. 4529, ARCTIC COASTAL PLAIN SURFACE MINING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington (during the special order of Mr. HENSARLING), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-540) on the resolution (H.

Res. 672) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4513) to provide that in preparing an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement required under section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 with respect to any action authorizing a renewable energy project, no Federal agency is required to identify alternative project locations or actions other than the proposed action and the no action alternative, and for other purposes, and for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4529), to provide for exploration, development, and production of oil and gas resources on the Arctic Coastal Plain of Alaska, to resolve outstanding issues relating to the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, to benefit the coal miners of America, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

MORNING AGAIN IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I need not state that last week was a very, very trying, yet very moving week for many Americans because we said goodbye to one of the greatest Presidents I believe in the history of America, and certainly one of the greatest that I have known in my life time, President Reagan. And I think many Americans recall so much about the President, about how he loved freedom and how optimistic he was.

There is a phrase that many people associated with President Reagan when he ran for reelection in 1984, and that phrase was, It is morning again in America.

Well, America has faced a significant economic challenge over the last several years, and that is we have faced a recession. Many people have been hurt by this recession and jobs were lost and businesses were padlocked. But I have to tell you, we have come out of the darkness. We are coming into the light. When we look the at our national economy, again it is morning in America.

One of the proudest days I have had as a Member of United States Congress was the day that I signed my name, co-authored President Bush's economic growth program. Now, that was a program that was all about tax relief, tax relief for American families, tax relief for small businesses, because we know that when you let families and businesses, the American people keep more of what they earn, they will roll up their sleeves. They will work hard. They will create new businesses. They will go out and open an automobile transmission shop on one street corner. They will open a barbecue stand on another corner. They will expand a mobile home business two blocks away.

Mr. Speaker, that is exactly what we see in America today.

Now, many in this body want to debate who is to blame for the recession. Well, I can tell you there have been many, many recessions in the history of America. And I wish there was something we could do in this body to outlaw recessions but we cannot. But we do know that besides the obvious and huge loss of human life on 9/11, what a blow it was to our economy, in the trillions of dollars; not to mention the stock market, the high tech bubble being burst, the corporate scandals. There are a whole lot of reasons. And we could play a blame game here between the Republicans and the Democrats, but I do not think that is what the American people sent us to Washington to do. They sent us here to work together and solve problems.

Mr. Speaker, in working with the President we have been able to solve a lot of these problems. If you look at where our economy is today, it is just a fantastic recovery that is under way. We are enjoying right now the highest economic growth that we have enjoyed in 20 years. In over 20 years we are seeing the highest economic growth that we have ever seen. And jobs, over a million and a half jobs have now been created over the last 9 months, in a blistering pace in the last several months, all due to President Bush's economic growth program.

Homeownership, the great American dream of homeownership, homeownership is at an all-time high. More Americans own their own homes than ever in the history of the United States of America.

Mr. Speaker, we are talking about the explosive job growth that we have had in our economy, a million and a half jobs in just the last 9 months, people all over America being able to go back to work because of the President's economic growth program.

The stock market is up 20, 25 percent off of its lows, which is so important for so many people that have 401(k) plans that they have to plan for their retirement, and there is so much other good news.

We have other Members that are here to discuss that and how it relates to their congressional districts. Mr. Speaker, at this time I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH), to discuss this further.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Texas and congratulate him on claiming this time during special orders to celebrate the 1-year anniversary of the Jobs and Growth Act of 2003. I am also pleased that the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) will join us shortly as she is prepared to make remarks on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciated the comments of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING). He spoke of changes in the economic indicators. He spoke of what has transpired in the stock market. And certainly we understand and

we should point out what is going on on Wall Street, but in the final analysis, Mr. Speaker, yes, Wall Street is important but likewise so is Main Street.

What is happening on the main economic thoroughfare of your town, and more importantly, what is happening, Mr. Speaker, in the homes in your neighborhood? It is interesting as we take a look at our efforts to embrace a pro-growth economic agenda centered on this one basic truth that the money that comes into the government via taxation does not belong to the government. It belongs to the people. And when we allege how the people can keep more of their hard earned money to save, spend and invest for themselves, it helps all of us. We can offer many historical examples.

Indeed, last week we celebrated the life of our 40th President, Ronald Reagan, who embraced that philosophy; but to be candid, Mr. Speaker, it is not exclusively partisan. Indeed, we look back to the 1960s and the efforts of late President John F. Kennedy who in asking for reduction in taxation across the board was heard to say, A rising tide lifts all boats. Everyone has, everyone has a chance to benefit. And certainly we can see what has happened on Wall Street, on Main Street, but most importantly, Mr. Speaker, what has happened on your street: 111 million individuals and families receive an average tax reduction of \$1,586; 49 million married couples get an average tax reduction of \$2,602; 43 million families with children, an average tax cut in excess of \$2,000; 14 million of our seniors will see their taxes fall on average by \$1,883; and 25 million small business owners, Mr. Speaker, if I could, I know it is really not a parliamentary inquiry. I do not need to ask unanimous consent but I think we all could agree, the term "small business," Mr. Speaker, is almost an inaccurate term. It is essential business. So-called "small businesses" are the very backbone of economic enterprise in this country. They supply more jobs than all the major corporations put together. Small businesses on your street do that. And 25 million small business owners will see an average tax reduction of \$3,000 plus.

Now, Mr. Speaker, there are cynics in this city who would say that somehow this is not a lot of money. It is interesting, on one hand collectively they bemoan the notion that Americans have more of their own hard earned money to save, spend and then they turn around almost in the same breath and take the opposite tack, well, this does not matter much to families.

Mr. Speaker, I would have to respectfully disagree. Yes, it is true, we talk about billions of dollars here in Washington, but think about those 43 million families who through the per child tax credit have seen their taxes fall in excess of \$2,000. Think, Mr. Speaker, what \$2,000 means in a family budget. Think of what it means as now so

many schools are out, kids are enjoying time off this summer. Some families coming here to Washington, D.C., other families going to visit extended family around the country, and more importantly preparing to head back to school to make those expenditures necessary. In some houses it could mean braces for that middle child. In other houses it could mean a set of tires, and still other houses it could be that important family vacation.

But important money, real money to real people is what we talk about and what we celebrate. And now tonight at the 1-year mark, the 1-year anniversary of the Jobs and Growth Act of 2003, as my colleague from Texas has reported, as my friend from West Virginia will join with her analysis, we have seen incredible economic growth.

Mr. Speaker, I look at the almost 1½ million more payroll jobs, 1.4 million more payroll jobs in the last 9 months, and it is fascinating because the American people, again, when they can invest, when business owners can invest, it does create more opportunity. And I am reminded by some in the ivory tower, maybe that is why economics is called, Mr. Speaker, the dismal science. Maybe that is why it is said, you can lay all the economists in the world end to end and never reach a conclusion, or by the same token, you can take all the economists in the world and lay them end to end and that might be a good thing, because away from theory we are seeing legitimate economic fact here.

There is no disputing that almost a million and a half more payroll jobs have been created in the last 9 months. There is no disputing this tax relief is helping America's job seekers. There is no disputing this tax relief, as I pointed out, is helping the budgets of American families. Real disposable income is up almost 4 percent. Household wealth, not for the wealthy but household wealth for all families across America, a record high of \$44 trillion. Housing starts, we talked about small business being an indicator, what about what happens in terms of building houses in the United States. Housing starts, the highest level in 2 decades. At the end of 2003 they remain consistently high. Homeownership is record high, 68.6 percent.

Mr. Speaker, stop and think of that for just a second. The American dream of homeownership, the very foundation of so much economic planning and dreaming and the aspirations of so many young couples and American families, now almost 70 percent of Americans realize the dream of owning their own home.

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Consumer confidence, accordingly, is up. Opportunities have increased. Manufacturing jobs are up. Indeed, in the last 4 months, manufacturing jobs have increased by 91,000, just short of 100,000.

When we take a look at these numbers and we translate them from the

black and white numbers on a page and we realize that this is helping real people and real families, we can hardly wait to see the other reports that will be forthcoming because we understand this simple fact. Again, it is not partisan but it is imminently practical.

Would Americans keep more of their own money and save, spend and invest it for themselves? Economic activity increases. We have seen great strides in productivity, and we understand this simple fact. From our history and in practice, what we are seeing today, that through this economic expansion, through this growth and opportunity, people are realizing the American dream of homeownership. They are taking advantage of opportunities to provide for their families, and as this continues and as we see this economic expansion, something that some of our friends who come to this Chamber seem to want to deny, although it has been an historical fact, we know that the increased economic activity in the long term actually creates more revenue for the government. There is actually an increase in taxable receipts that comes from economic activity.

So rather than succumbing to the cynical and shopworn phrases that tax relief only helps one sector of our economy, rather than abandon reality for the poisonous rhetoric that would set one American against another, we would do well tonight, Mr. Speaker, in recognizing this 1-year anniversary to take a look at the historical examples of Presidents Kennedy and Reagan and take a look at the current events and the current evidence, that the common sense, pro-growth agenda, pro-economic agenda, developed by this President and this congressional majority is helping real people find real work and real opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, we continue in markup in the Committee on Ways and Means to find yet other ways to spur economic growth. As that continues in the Committee on Ways and Means, I just wanted to take time out from those proceedings to come here to the floor to thank my colleagues, especially the gentleman from Texas, for claiming this one hour of time, Mr. Speaker, to report to the American people and to reaffirm what so many of them are seeing both in their own lives, in their own homes and on their own street.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arizona for making time to come down this evening to the floor to discuss the wonderful news that we have had as we talk about the 1-year anniversary of the Jobs and Growth Act of 2003, and obviously there is so much good news to be had in Texas and Arizona and all the other States around the Nation, but there is still work to be done.

At this time, I yield to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), one of the great pro-growth leaders in the Congress, somebody who has made a real difference for West Virginia.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague from Texas for yielding to me and for working with us on this hour to talk to the Nation about the good news that we have on our economic front.

I have been here almost 4 years now, and for some reason good news seems to get buried a lot, and it is deeply concerning to me when we are talking about something as critically important as our Nation's economy, people working, families. So I think it is extremely important for all of us to give a good viewpoint to our Nation on how our Nation is moving in the right direction.

I would like to talk about my home State of West Virginia. Many times in terms of economics, West Virginia has had difficulty with our State economy. We have not moved with the rest of the Nation when the rest of the Nation is surging economically. We have sort of puttered along a little bit, and so in my home State people will say to me, Shelley, I hear that national indicators are good and that we are creating 1.4 million new job with President Bush's programs, but what is happening in West Virginia? Is that really occurring in West Virginia? The great news is, yes, it is.

The indications today were just brought out by the State Department of Employment Programs. It announced today that in the month of May we saw the largest period of job growth this year, 4,400 new jobs created in the State of West Virginia in May. Our unemployment rate, which has been steadily below the Nation's unemployment, dropped another 3/10ths of a point to 5.2 percent. These are not happenstance. This is not just a blip in the radar screen. This is a constant indication that the economics of West Virginia are improving, just as the economics of the Nation are growing and thriving.

Being home last weekend, I talked to many folks, miners, realtors, bankers, schoolteachers, truck drivers: How is business? How is it going? Every single one of them has a positive, uplifting message to give. They are either hiring more people, ordering new parts, or increasing their equipment, all the things that are the great indicators of economic growth. The tax savings in West Virginia is being reinvested, just as the President's Jobs and Growth Act had planned, and new workers are being hired.

There are also other good signs. Not only is West Virginia being included in the upturn of the Nation's economy and settling into new jobs, but other things are occurring, and I think it is important to be pointed out.

We have heard about outsourcing and we are all concerned about any job that leaves an American shore and goes across the sea where we want to keep that job on our shores, but in West Virginia interestingly one in five of our manufacturing jobs in West Virginia, they are working for a foreign-based

company. Those jobs have been insourced to the State of West Virginia, and I think that is over 27,000 workers in the State of West Virginia are in that position.

The pride of Buffalo, West Virginia, which is in my District, is the Toyota manufacturing plant where over 1,000 West Virginians build the engines that are in the Toyota Camrys that are parked in our driveways, and can my colleagues imagine the impact that 1,000 of those manufacturing jobs in a small area such as Buffalo, West Virginia, has on the total economy of that location and that area and region of our State?

We also saw personal income rise in the latter part of 2003 to a total of \$44.7 billion, and that is one of the highest numbers ever reported in the State of West Virginia. Our exports have increased by over \$100 million. Personal tax collections are forecast to increase by 3.1 percent this coming year. That is an indication that more people are working. They are working at higher salary levels, and they are enjoying the prosperity a boom economy can provide, and the prosperity the Jobs and Growth Act of 2003 that President Bush put forth is working.

We also have many in West Virginia who are enjoying the tax benefits that were a part of that on an individual basis. We have several hundreds of thousands who are enjoying the marriage tax penalty: 400,000 individuals paying fewer taxes; and over 100,000 small businesses enjoying the tax relief that was so vitally important to jump-starting this economy and moving it in the right direction.

So, while we always seem to want to have the gloom and doom news take the headlines, I think it is time that the Americans see the headlines that are the reality of our economy here in the United States, and that is we are moving in the right direction. There is more work to be done, and States like West Virginia are feeling the impact, are being able to take hold of the movement and the surge in the economy. More jobs are being created, more families are feeling that, and for me to be able to say that this Congress, with this President, put these policies into place makes me proud to go home every weekend to West Virginia and say we are moving in the right direction. We are going to keep up the momentum, and things are on the rise.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for granting me the time.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for her comments and how enlightening they were to enlighten us about what is going on in the State of West Virginia and how under the Jobs and Growth Act of 2003, how jobs are being created, how exports are up, how real income for families is on the rise so that families can go out and afford to spend more money on their education programs, their housing programs, their nutritional programs.

Although there is much work to be done, all this great progress was made possible by an act that at its core was all about tax relief, tax relief for small businesses, tax relief for American families, and Mr. Speaker, as my colleagues know, in the House of Representatives, that means that tax relief comes through our Committee on the Ways and Means. One of the great leaders of that committee, one of the pro-growth leaders in the United States Congress, is here to share his thoughts with us, and I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN).

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Texas. I thank him for leading this Special Order tonight and for all the good information he has been providing. I also thank my colleague from West Virginia who just described very well what is going on not just with the national economy but also what is happening in her State of West Virginia.

We are not getting the word out about the economy. Most Americans are concerned about where our economy is headed. In fact, we have made incredible strides. Is there more to do? Of course there is. The tax relief, though, helped tremendously.

I want to talk a little bit about that and then talk about what we need to do in the future with regard to health care costs, litigation costs, international trade, energy costs to take this economy to even greater heights, but things are improving, and we need to acknowledge that because it is important to remember what we did that worked and what we have done that does not work.

What we have done that works is, again, letting people keep more of their hard-earned money, increasing small business investment, helping people around this country to be able to find opportunity.

This first chart shows the fact that over the last several months we have had incredible job growth. In fact, in the last 9 months alone we have created over 1.4 million jobs in this country. Government did not create those jobs, but government does play a role in creating the environment to create those jobs, and again, the tax relief was absolutely crucial to that.

Job growth is key but job growth only comes with economic growth. This shows the GDP growth which is a measure of all the goods and services in the economy, and as we can see we are now at 4.4 percent in the first quarter of 2004. Projections are into 2005 we are going to see sustained growth and a kind of growth that will be able to not only keep this economy strong but even with high productivity be sure we have real job growth in this country.

As this job creation is surging, it is helpful to look at the unemployment rate. Right now the unemployment rate is down well below the average in the 1990s, which is this dark line. Here we are today: 5.6 percent is well below not just where we were in the 1990s but

also below where we were in the 1980s, below where we were in the 1970s.

So, yes, we have challenges. We have a lot of international competition. We need to do more across the board in terms of making it more productive to create a job here in this country, but we are making good progress, and that unemployment number, coupled with this job growth, is incredibly important to the working people of America.

Some people have said, well, okay, the economy is now growing, that is good, and now it is not a jobless recovery. We have got good job growth coming back, strong job growth, over 1 million new jobs created this year alone, but people's earnings are not as high as they should be. Well, I would just point them to this chart.

Incomes and earnings are up. This is after-tax income, up 4.9 percent in the first quarter of this year, a substantial increase. This, again, in my view, is largely because of the policies we put in place here, and that is why it is important to talk about it.

Average weekly earnings have increased by 2.5 percent from the same period a year ago. People say, well, Rob, that is not wage growth; that is just people with big incomes and that is averaged in. Actually, it is wage growth. Hourly wages are up. People who are punching a time clock, going to work every day, providing the impetus for this economic growth are seeing an increase in their take-home wages. That is what this is all about after all, making sure that families have more income to be able to spend on their needs and it is happening.

Housing is strong. I think it has been talked about earlier tonight and others will talk about it, but housing is an incredibly important part of our economy, and it has kept strong actually even through the recession we had in 2002, but this housing growth is particularly interesting because it is at an all-time high in terms of homeownership, all-time high in terms of minority homeownership. This is important well beyond the economy. It gives people a stake in their communities.

□ 2100

It allows people to build up an investment in their home. This is great news for the long-term economic ownership of our country, that people are able to take part in by owning a home.

The last thing I want to spend just a second on is investment. Investment is strong here, and it shows that the President's tax cuts have been very effective. This chart shows that investment is up 12½ percent in the last 12 months. Over the last four quarters, investment is up 12½ percent. What does that mean? That means we are over this bubble.

Before the recession, people were concerned about overcapacity and overinvestment. For the last few years, people have been very concerned that there is no new investment going on because we had overbuilding and over-

capacity. Finally we are over that. Why? I think there are four reasons for it.

One, we reduced the rate of taxation on dividends. Companies are now dividending. Record levels of dividends are being reported by companies. Seniors really benefit from this. A lot of them have investments in companies that issue dividends. That dividend tax cut has helped with regard to investors because more investors are getting into the market; and that investment is going to expanding plants, equipment and creating jobs.

Second is the capital gains relief. By reducing the capital gains rate, as we did, we are encouraging investors to get back in the game, and that has happened.

Third is depreciation. We put into place a bonus depreciation of 50 percent. We have put into place section 179 depreciation where people can write off more of their expenses immediately for small businesses. This is incredibly important to small businesses. Small businesses are taking advantage of these provisions we put in law. We have to extend some of these, and we are debating in the Committee on Ways and Means a provision to extend section 179 expensing for small businesses for this very reason.

The final reason I will mention is reduction in the top rate. In fact, all of the tax rates that went down, and we were at 39.6 percent, then 38 percent, down to 35 percent. People say, gee, and JOHN KERRY has said this, this is only to help wealthy individuals. That is not the point.

Mr. Speaker, 83 percent of the people in those tax brackets are businesses. What does that mean? Most small businesses in America, about 90 percent of them, pay taxes through the individual tax return. They are what is called pass-through entities. They are partnerships, sole proprietors, LLC companies, subchapter S. The bottom line is those businesses pay taxes as an individual; and so when you reduce those individual rates, you are getting at the real engine of economic growth in this country, which is small businesses. That is exactly what has happened.

I think for those four reasons, reducing the taxes on capital gains; reducing the taxes on dividends; reducing taxes across the board; and increasing depreciation, we have seen a nice increase in investment. That will continue based on all of the economic projections. This leads to opportunity because by investing in more equipment and expanding plants and jobs, we will have opportunity going forward.

As I said at the outset, we still have more work to do, and we want to do it. Trade is one issue. We have to increase our exports. We are starting to see increasing exports as other economies around the world are picking up, even though our economy is doing better than any industrialized economy in the world. That is incredibly important also to our future.

I come from Ohio. I heard earlier my colleague from West Virginia talking about the West Virginia economy and the struggles they have had over the last few years. We have had struggles, too, and we continue to. We are a heavy manufacturing State. We are the kind of State that has traditionally done very well in areas where the U.S. is not as competitive as we once were. We are beginning to make that transition. There is more high technology coming in, more financial services jobs, and we are doing better.

But even in Ohio, where we have a struggle with manufacturing jobs, we have seen some great numbers over the last several months. We have added over 34,000 new jobs to Ohio's economy in the last 9 months alone. We have also created 4,300 new jobs in April alone. These are not regular jobs; these are good-paying jobs, the kind of jobs you want to have going forward with the economic recovery.

Nearly three-quarters of Ohio's payroll job growth in April, for instance, was in industries that pay more than the national average. The professional and business services industry comprised the largest share of those jobs. Average hourly pay of a job in that industry that is nonsupervisory is \$17.20 an hour. That is well above the national average for nonsupervisory jobs.

So we are finally adding jobs in Ohio. We are getting these jobs back; and now would be exactly the wrong time to change direction and raise taxes on small businesses, as has been proposed by JOHN KERRY and others.

Second, unemployment is down in Ohio. We were at 6.2 percent a year ago. We are down to 5.8 percent now. Can we do more? Yes. And we must do more to be able to bring those jobs back to Ohio. But we have turned the corner. We are making progress. Personal incomes are now up in Ohio, housing values have increased dramatically in Ohio, and there are more exports. Last year, Ohio exports increased over \$2 billion. That is incredibly important to my district in southwest Ohio and to the entire State of Ohio. That brings jobs and opportunity.

As I said before, we are not done. We have plans to reduce health care costs. We plan to get litigation costs under control, which will help our entire economy. We have a specific proposal on energy that is currently in the United States Senate to reduce the cost of energy and make us less dependent on foreign oil.

Finally, we need to do more in terms of knocking down barriers to our trade for exports. But the tax relief we put in place in 2001, 2002, and 2003 is working. The economy is back. We need to stay the course. We need to continue to be sure that tax relief stays in place so our economy stays strong so we have opportunities for America's workers so we can compete in this global environment. We are doing it. We can do it going forward. We just have to keep the faith.

To the gentleman from Texas, I appreciate the gentleman allowing me to come down and talk about the economy a little bit tonight.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio for his great leadership in ensuring that we did have tax relief for American families and small businesses which has ignited this great economic recovery that we are seeing from one shore to the other.

Indeed, there is great news and, indeed, there is still more work to be done. We have to make sure that those in Congress who want to take the tax relief away, raise taxes on the American people yet again, that that policy does not come about in the Halls of the United States House of Representatives.

We are joined tonight by a gentleman from the Committee on Ways and Means who was instrumental in ensuring that we pass the Jobs and Growth Act of 2003 and will be a key leader in ensuring this tax relief is not rolled back.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY).

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) for leading this discussion.

I want to set the predicate for a moment because this Congress and this President inherited a very troubled economy. In 1999 when the Internet stock bubble burst, there was a tremendous amount of sensitivity, if you will, to the economy. People had lost lots of money in their savings accounts and IRAs and Keoghs and 401(k)s, and so psychologically the economy started heading in a negative manner from that point on.

President Bush inherited a struggling economy; and then we have all heard about September 11 and what it did to the investor psychology and what it did to the job market and what it did to the economics of places like Florida where our tourism market was ravaged. We all experienced that, so we are not reliving history; but we have to set the predicate about how important the leadership of this White House has been in setting in place the kind of economic tools necessary to develop what are now very, very hopeful numbers for people around the country.

Florida's jobs have been up. In fact, we have created 29,000 payroll jobs in April alone. We now have 168,400 more payroll jobs than a year ago. Our economy is adding good-paying jobs. More than two-thirds of Florida's payroll job growth in April was in industries that pay more than the national average. For example, the professional business service industry comprised the largest share at 11,500. The average hourly pay of a nonsupervisory job in that industry is \$17.27, well above the national average of \$15.59.

Unemployment was down in Florida from 5.3 a year ago to 4.6. The national average is 5.6. Florida's average unemployment rate in the 1990s was 5.9.

Personal income swelled in Florida in the last quarter by 1.3 percent to over \$528 billion. Florida's housing values are up well over 11 percent in 2003 and over 53 percent in the last 4 years.

Exports have increased over \$400 million for a total of \$25 billion from Florida's export economy alone. And insourcing, a subject some on the other side of the aisle do not want to talk about, but we have had over 303,000 jobs in Florida from companies based in other countries. About 12.2 percent of all manufacturing jobs in Florida are with foreign companies.

So the statistics are clear, the effects of our tax reductions and our attempts to make this economy stronger and more resilient are absolutely made positive by the charts that my colleague on the Committee on Ways and Means illustrated just moments ago.

I am proud of the leadership of not only this White House but the entire Congress for recognizing that in order to get the opportunities present for people for jobs, for growth in their families' income, for more job security and for an aggressive, can-do spirit of passing very detailed and complicated legislation that has yielded in the pockets of people of the 16th Congressional District of Florida greater disposable income, greater sense of purpose, and greater job security. These are things that are not just imaginative. These are things displayed each and every day.

I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) for leading this opportunity to talk to the Nation and talk to our friends. Look at the price of the Dow Jones Industrial Average today as opposed to 3 years ago, look at the unemployment numbers, look at all these factors; and I think it will bear out that the work done by this Congress is not only showing great progress but the months to come will show even more positive improvements in the lives of all Americans.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) for his comments and thank him for his leadership in ensuring that we had tax relief for American families and small businesses to help this wonderful surge of employment that we have had in the United States.

Again, as we can see from this chart, over the last 9 months almost a million and a half new jobs have been created, and in the last several months at a blistering pace. New jobs for Americans, and these are not just dry statistics that are appearing on some board, but I have the honor and privilege of representing the Fifth Congressional District of Texas which starts in the eastern part of the city of Dallas and takes in several of the suburbs of Dallas County and includes many rural areas in east Texas; and I have seen some great news in that area all due to President Bush's economic growth program.

I was in Jacksonville, Texas, not too long ago in Cherokee County, Texas. I

went to visit a plant called Jacksonville Industries. They are an aluminum and zinc die cast business. They were having trouble in some respects in competing in their marketplace. But once President Bush brought his economic growth package forward and once we passed it in the House of Representatives, all of a sudden they were able to afford a new piece of equipment that previously they could not afford. Now I could not tell you the name of this piece of equipment, I could not tell you what it does, but it is big and makes a lot of noise, and it makes them more competitive in a very competitive marketplace. Prior to being able to acquire this machine, they were on the verge of perhaps having to let two of their workers go because they could not be competitive without having the new plant, the new equipment.

Because of the equipment they were able to buy due to President Bush's tax relief program, instead of potentially laying off two workers, they hired three new workers. That is five people who could have been on unemployment, five people who could have been on welfare. Instead, thanks to our President and thanks to the Republican majority in the House of Representatives, those are five people with a real job, five people who are putting a roof over their own head, putting food on the table, helping educate their children, and realizing their own version of the American dream.

That is how important tax relief is in America to get this surge of economic growth, this surge of jobs that we see being created. I see it all over the Fifth Congressional District of Texas. I see it in the city of Garland where all of a sudden a new CiCi's Pizza franchise opened up just a couple of months ago. They created 30 new jobs in 2 months. In Mesquite, another superb of Dallas, a wonderful community, Coleman Homes, a home builder who came to Mesquite in 2002, has almost doubled their number of employees in just 2 years building homes.

□ 2115

Because as we said earlier, Mr. Speaker, we are enjoying the highest rate of homeownership that we have ever enjoyed in the history of the United States of America, thanks again to President Bush's economic growth program and a Republican majority in this House that would pass it.

In Dallas where I live in the Lakewood neighborhood, because of the economic growth, a new bank opened. They put in \$600,000 to renovate an old building that went to builders and carpenters and refinishers, and in just 3 months they have added 12 full-time jobs to help serve all the demand as businesses grow and need the capital that the bank can provide. The stories go on and on and on.

Mr. Speaker, I know that tax relief works. I see it in the Fifth Congressional District of Texas. We see it all over America, and it is not just the evi-

dence we have today. It is the history. As we mourn the passing of one of the great Presidents of the United States, President Reagan, we have to remember tax relief worked again in his administration. We cut marginal tax rates, and we had an explosion of economic activity, and we had more tax revenue come into the government as well.

Mr. Speaker, there is other good news around this Nation. There is lots of good news, and that does not mean our work is done. We have much work to be done. We will not stop until every American who wants a job has a job. But another great leader that we have had in making sure that we have pro-growth economic policies for our Nation, to make sure that we create jobs in every corner of America is a great colleague of mine and cochairman of the Washington Waste Watchers, which has been on the vanguard of fighting waste, fraud and abuse in America.

At this time I would like to yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CHOCOLA).

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and I thank my good friend from Texas for taking the leadership in talking about this very important subject, and I commend all my colleagues who have come down to the floor tonight to talk about what is going on in their States and their districts and sharing good news. I think it is so important that we do share this good news, because much of the economy is based on the confidence of the American people, and when they hear the good news I am confident that their confidence will swell and they will continue to do their job so well in growing the economy.

Before coming to Congress, I was a business person. I was part of the economy trying to grow a business and create jobs every day, and one of the differences I have learned between working in the private sector and being part of government is that facts do not always get in the way of people's opinions here in government. I think it is important that we recognize what the facts are, and I think the Wall Street Journal today tried to share some of the facts about the economy in an editorial they entitled Gloom and Boom.

Roughly, that editorial talked about how not long ago the critics of the economy said that this is the worst economy that we have seen since maybe the Great Depression, but then when economic growth was undeniable, the criticism was, well, there's growth, but there is no jobs. This is a jobless recovery, and now clearly there is robust job growth, so the criticism is, well, certainly there is growth and certainly there are jobs, but these are not good jobs; these are not good-paying jobs.

The editorial went on to point out that in fact these are good jobs, the economy is growing, personal incomes are up, and the people getting the jobs today are being paid more than the jobs of yesterday.

We can talk about Wall Street Journal editorials all night long. We can talk about national economic indicators all night long, and they are very, very important, but I find that the best national economic indicator is my local paper. So tonight I ran up to the files and looked in the file to try to find some examples of what is happening in the Second District of Indiana, and I just grabbed a few of the articles that were in the file from the last couple months. These are examples of the economic indicators we are finding in north central Indiana.

Consumer Confidence Climbs. Economy, Job Market Gain Strength.

Big New Business Here, 157 Jobs with Furniture Firm on the East Side. LaPorte Officials Celebrate "Major" Business Here.

Zimmer Adding 400 More Jobs.

Manufacturing Sees Expansion. March Results Give Hope for Job Growth.

Jobless Claims at Three-Year Low. Hopes Raised. Economy Has Turned Corner.

More Jobs on the Way. Manufacturer Adds New Product Line.

Dutchmen Constructs Facility to Inspect RVs.

RVs Roll to Big Total.

Encouraging Developments on the South Side.

Industry Upturn. Science Favorable For Manufactured Housing Market.

Adding and Saving Jobs. Announcements This Week Good News.

RV Business Opens Door in Argos.

Pace of Hiring Will Pick Up. Survey Shows Companies Intend to Hire More in '04.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on and on and on about the good economic news in the Second District of Indiana, and I certainly do not think we are alone. As we heard from our colleagues from Ohio and West Virginia, two States like Indiana that are very focused on manufacturing, very blue collar, districts and States that are starting to see robust economic growth, and I do not think that there is any denying this fact. And the fact is the American people have done their job so well.

We are going in the right direction, and we need to continue to go in the right direction, because our job is clearly not done, as many have pointed out tonight. And we need to do two things to make sure we continue to go in the right direction. Number one, continue to adopt and implement pro-growth policies that help create environments where businesses can do their best work and achieve their best results. Small business in America is the backbone of our economy. Government does not create economic growth. The American people do, and small business does. And we need to make sure that the American people continue to keep more of their own money in their own pocket, because when they do that, they go out and invest in their community, they invest in their headlines, and they create headlines exactly like this.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to going home and reading more headlines like this and to congratulate the people of the Second District for doing such a great job, and I congratulate my good friend, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING), in leading us in this very important discussion, and I encourage the people American people to keep up the good work and keep this economy going.

Mr. HENSARLING. I thank the gentleman for his comments. I especially thank him for reminding all of us that the government had nothing to do with this. It was the American people who went out and created these jobs. Not unlike my colleague from Indiana, I was a small businessman before I was elected to Congress. Government does not create jobs. Men and women who go out and risk capital and roll up their sleeves and work hard, they are the ones who create jobs in America. But for them to do it, government has got to get out of the way. Too many taxes destroy jobs. Too many regulations destroy jobs. Too much litigation destroys jobs. Fortunately due to President Bush's economic growth plan, due to this Republican majority in Congress, we took a huge step in providing this tax relief that has provided almost 1.5 million jobs in 9 months.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART), another great leader we have had on economic growth issues in the United States Congress, a gentleman who is the cofounder of the Washington Waste Watchers.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Let me first thank the gentleman from Texas for providing this insight here tonight. I was just listening to our friend from Indiana. He was mentioning the naysayers, the ones that constantly say that it is not going to work, that cutting taxes on the hardworking American people was not going to work. And then when it started working, they started saying, as he said, all right, it is working but it is not creating jobs. Then when it started creating jobs, as our friend from Indiana reminded us, they were saying, well, but they are not high paying jobs. He mentioned how that is just a fallacy. That is just not true.

Let me give my colleagues some statistics from Florida. In Florida we are creating an incredible amount of jobs. Every single month the private sector in Florida is creating jobs. They are good paying jobs. Florida's economy is adding really good paying jobs. More than two-thirds of Florida's payroll job growth in April, by the way, was in industries that pay more than the national average. Those are the facts. Some people do not like the facts and do not let the facts confuse what they want to believe in the issue. But those are the facts.

Let me just read some of the quotes that were said by our friends in the minority party before they started seeing

the results that we are talking about today. They said, for example, May 9, 2003, the Jobs and Growth Act will neither create jobs nor grow the economy. Wrong. It created jobs and it grew the economy. The majority's reckless, irresponsible tax agenda. They said that on May 5. It was neither reckless nor irresponsible to have the private sector create more than 1 million jobs for hardworking Americans. They said again, May 9, 2003, to see how badly the Republican economic plan has failed all we have to do is look around.

Well, look around. The tax cuts have worked. They are creating jobs. We have to do more. We are working to do more. Unfortunately, we are getting no help from our friends in the minority party because what do they propose? As opposed to cutting taxes, what did they propose? Let me tell my colleagues some specifics. They offered alternatives to major legislation just last year that would have added almost \$1 trillion to the deficit. That was their answer. But that was not enough. They did not support tax cuts. What they did support and they proposed three alternative budgets on this floor, on this very floor, and each one of them raised more than \$100 billion in additional taxes to the hardworking men and women in this country.

Let me just state this very clearly. If you think that your taxes are too low, that the Federal Government is utilizing your money very efficiently and that you need to send more of your money up here, then you support what they propose. But that is not what works. What works is cutting taxes, allowing the hardworking people to keep more of their money. But then they say, when it is working, when jobs are being created, but those are tax cuts on the wealthy. That is how they try to excuse it.

Let me read some of the issues, some of the tax cuts that they say are for the wealthy. Maybe I just represent kind of a different district, but one of those that they say is the marriage penalty repeal. Marriage penalty repeal. I do not know about in other parts of the country, but in Florida not only the wealthy get married. How about the death tax repeal? Oh, that is a tax cut on the rich. I do not know about other parts of the country, but in the State that I represent not only do rich people die. How about the reduction of taxes on education savings? That is on the wealthy? Not in my State, not in the State that I live. How about the small business expensing? Those are small businesses, not wealthy. How about the adoption tax credit? These are the things that they objected to because they are tax cuts on the wealthy. How about the dependent care credit? That is not tax cuts for the wealthy. Those are people that have dependents at home. How about a tax credit for employer-provided child care facilities for hardworking moms and dads so that they can go to work? That is not for the wealthy. And how

about the emergency tax relief? Even this, emergency tax relief to areas affected by the attacks of 9/11. Those are for the wealthy? No, those are responsible tax cuts for hardworking men and women in this country who create jobs, who create wealth, who do not want to create more bureaucrats. They want to create more jobs, more wealth. It is working.

I thank the President for his leadership. I also want to particularly thank the leadership in this House and also my dear friend from Texas who has led the fight to look for waste, fraud and abuse in the Federal Government. He is doing a great job. I want to thank him for allowing me this time today.

Mr. HENSARLING. I thank my colleague from Florida for his wonderful comments and helping remind us that again there are two very different visions for economic growth in America. In one vision again is tax relief for small businesses, the job-creating engine in America. Another is tax increases on business, tax increases on families. It is often said that one is entitled to their own opinions but one is not entitled to their own facts.

Let me review again what has happened in the last 9 months. We have added almost 1.5 million new jobs in the last 9 months. And look at this. Look at the blistering pace in just the last 3 months of job creation in this economy due to tax relief. Look at this. The greatest economic growth in almost 20 years under this program, under President Bush's tax relief program, the greatest economic growth in almost 20 years. Look what is happening to the unemployment rate. It is going down. Job creation is going up. Unemployment is going down. Incomes are up. Family incomes are up. These are not just jobs. We are seeing good jobs, good job growth in the American economy. Again that foundation of the American dream, homeownership, is at an all-time high.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the question is where do we go from here, because there is work to be done. We do not want to rest until every American who wants a job has a job. We want to make sure that we have more tax relief, that Americans can go out and create more businesses and expand more jobs, so that every American can realize his American dream, that he can invest in his housing program, in his nutritional program, in his education program. But our friends from the other side of the aisle, they want to raise taxes on the American people. Mr. Speaker, we cannot tax our way into prosperity. That is a battle being fought in the House now. And another battle we are trying to fight, we want to reduce the litigation in America. Too often we do not love our neighbor, we sue our neighbor in America. There is something fundamentally wrong when it is easier to sue a doctor than it is to see a doctor.

□ 2130

There is something fundamentally wrong when one can sue McDonald's for millions of dollars because they spill hot coffee on oneself. Excess litigation hurts job growth. That is another difference between the Republicans and the Democrats.

And how about too much regulation? I know as a small businessman the huge regulatory burden on our economy. It is almost \$8,000 per American family. How many mortgage payments is that for the average American family? How many semesters of college is that? Instead, we are paying more in regulation costs. We want to bring down that regulatory cost. The Democrats want to increase that regulatory cost.

Litigation sends jobs overseas. Regulation sends jobs overseas. And taxation sends jobs overseas.

We need to thank President Bush for his principled leadership in all the job growth that he has created in the economy.

THE ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, a group of Members from Congress from Ohio have come to the floor regularly over the last 3 years, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES), and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND); and we have since been joined by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN), freshman from northeastern Ohio, to discuss what Bush economic policies have done to the middle class, how they have squeezed middle-class Americans with higher gas prices, higher health care costs, stagnant wages, and especially staggering job loss. Our State of Ohio has lost, since President Bush took office, one out of six manufacturing jobs, almost 200 jobs every single day of the Bush administration.

These failed economic policies are especially putting the squeeze on America's and Ohio's middle class. Middle-class families feel the brunt of this administration's economic policies. America's middle-class families are losing ground on jobs, losing ground on health care, losing ground on education. Yet the Bush administration's answer to every single economic problem, as we saw from listening to my friends paint their very rosy picture of the condition of the U.S. economy, at least the condition for the most affluent in the U.S. economy, the answer in every case for the President for every problem that we face is more tax cuts for the wealthiest people in our country, hoping that some of those benefits trickle down to the middle class and

maybe create some jobs from time to time.

That clearly has not worked with the loss of plus 2½ million jobs since President Bush took office, the first President since Herbert Hoover to have a net job loss. And the President's other answer to these economic anxieties, to these economic problems, are more trade agreements like NAFTA, like the North American Free Trade Agreement. Singapore, Chile, Morocco, Australia, and now the Central American Free Trade Agreement, and later the Free Trade Area of the Americas, all of which have hemorrhaged jobs, all of which have sent jobs overseas.

As I said, Ohio has lost almost 200 jobs every single day of the Bush administration, and now leading U.S. corporations are beginning to send not just blue collar but white collar jobs, clerical jobs, administrative jobs, technical work, computer programming, even radiology and radiologist jobs overseas as well.

Government figures confirm that the North American Free Trade Agreement, very conservatively speaking from a conservative government, that NAFTA has cost Americans more than a half million jobs. If that is not enough, the President now has signed just last week the Central America Free Trade Agreement, which will ship more jobs out of Tennessee or out of Ohio or out of any of our States to Mexico, to China, and all over the world. Roughly 830,000 U.S. service sector jobs, telemarketers, accountants, software engineers, chief technology officers will move abroad by the end of 2005, according to a report released in May by Forrester Research. Forrester Research projected that 600,000 jobs would move overseas by the end of next year; 3.4 million jobs will leave the U.S. by 2015.

So instead of fighting for trade pacts that keep jobs in the United States, the President's plan is to repeat the failures of NAFTA and to use taxpayer dollars to outsource American jobs. Get that: to use taxpayer dollars, literally to use taxpayer dollars, to outsource jobs, to send jobs overseas. This is an administration that, when begged, literally begged, by 200 of us in this Congress, would not extend unemployment benefits to those 1 million Americans, 50,000 Americans in the gentleman from Ohio's (Mr. RYAN) and my home State to allow the extension of unemployment benefits for those Americans who lost their jobs, but continue to try to look for jobs.

Instead of fighting for corporate tax reform such as Crane-Rangel, the administration remains silent on responsible bipartisan legislation, the Crane-Rangel legislation that both parties support, 85 Republican sponsors, 90 Democratic sponsors, supported by the AFL-CIO and the National Association of Manufacturers, a jobs bill that will reward companies that produce domestically. Instead, the President wants to continue to give tax breaks to the large-

est companies, which happen to be his largest contributors, which so often send their jobs overseas.

Responsible leadership means not just being critical of the President in what he is doing but also offering what we should do instead of these failed trickle-down economic policies and failed trade agreement policies.

Four things to start off: a moratorium on job exporting trade pacts, meaning let us look at NAFTA, let us look at China trade, let us look at CAFTA, let us look at all these trade agreements before we pass another one to decide what works, what does not work, and make the changes we need to. Second, tough action against China and other trading partners who refuse to play by the rules.

When I came to Congress a dozen years ago, we had about a 400 million, million with an "m," trade deficit with China. Today we have 120 billion, with a "b," 3,000 times the trade deficit that we had with China just a dozen years ago.

Third, enactment of the Crane-Rangel corporate tax reform plan, which, as I said, uses the Tax Code to reward companies that produce domestically the manufacturing in our country instead of the Bush way of giving big tax cuts to the largest corporations, most of which outsource their jobs every single day.

And, fourth, an extension of unemployment insurance to help bridge the gap until better, good-paying jobs are created and people can once again support their families.

The President's plan includes none of these provisions, in large part because large American corporations that have funded the President's campaign, who are the President's strongest allies, from which most of the President's Cabinet has come out of, all of those companies are doing very well, their stockholders and their executives are doing very well under the Bush tax plans and outsourcing plans, but their workers are not and our country is not.

And, lastly, before yielding to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) to talk about education issues and what that has done to jobs in this country, the President's health care policies are also hitting America's middle class right in the pocketbook. Prescription drug costs increased 9 percent last year, five times the rate of inflation. Yet the President's drug bill, the Medicare bill, written by the drug industry, written by the insurance industry will increase drug company profits by \$140 billion over the next 10 years and has protections in the bill for the drug industry so that they can continue to charge three times, four times, five times what drugs cost everywhere else around the world.

Mr. Speaker, one more point. Because I was critical of the President's plan on prescription drugs, I want to mention what we should do to get costs under control. First of all, we should

give clear authority to our own government to negotiate on behalf of 40 million Medicare beneficiaries lower drug prices. Every other country in the world does it that way. That is why Tamoxifen, a breast cancer drug, costs the Canadians one-eighth as much as it costs Americans, simply because the Canadians use their 30 million residents as a bargaining pool to negotiate better prices from the drug companies. The U.S. Government has refused to do that in large part because the drug industry gives so many campaign dollars to too many Members of this body, especially Republican leadership and especially the President's re-election campaign.

The second thing we should do is allow the reimportation of prescription drugs from Canada so if we really do believe in NAFTA and fair trade and free trade, American wholesalers, American drug stores like Drug Mart, should be allowed to go on the international market and buy those drugs from Canada at one third and one fourth the price.

Mr. Speaker, I also would mention some things about education, but we have an expert here. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN), freshman congressman, will talk for some time about jobs in Ohio and education and some of the issues that he wants to discuss.

I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN).

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me. I think it is important that the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) shared with us exactly why we are having all these problems. I think people sitting at home would be thinking to themselves why in God's name would our country be giving tax credits to companies who would outsource jobs? And the answer, as the gentleman so eloquently gave us, is that these people who are making the profits from outsourcing jobs are the same people that are donating millions of dollars to Members of this body, that are donating millions of dollars especially to the Presidential campaign, and that is probably the fundamental problem that we have in this country right now.

Our government and our laws are being dictated to everyone else by the big-money people, and they control this institution. And I think the best example that we have had, at least since I have been here, is why would we not allow prescription drugs to come down from Canada. It seems it would make sense. But then we realize, as I was reading his op-ed here that he wrote here in the New York Times, we realize that political contributions from the drug industry to Republicans in this body is \$22 million, 74 percent of the total of the money that they raised. The Democrats raised \$7 million, only 25 percent. Still a lot of money. But it is clear that if they are raising \$22 million, 74 percent of their total amount of money that they are

raising, that they would be advocating on behalf of those major corporations and they would be saying we do not want to free trade with Canada. And the same thing with not allowing them to negotiate down drug prices. Why would we not use the buying power of millions of people to sit down with Pfizer, say to Pfizer, we are going to make a deal here. They want access to these millions of people, they have got to sit down and talk to us and negotiate a fair price.

So I think it is very important and probably the best point that we could make as we speak to the American people here tonight, because they would ask why are we doing this, and the reason is there is too much money in this game and the average person has a microphone and the people who have a lot of money have a big bull horn, and they seem to get everything done.

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) talked about outsourcing of jobs, free trade, competing on a global economy, our workers trying to compete with workers who make \$5 a day or 50 cents an hour in a lot of these other countries. The promise to the American people always was this: we are going to trade, we are going to compete in an international economy, in a global economy; but we are always going to invest in our own people. We are going to invest in our own children. We are going to invest in our college students. We are going to make college accessible, affordable so that we can get the high-end jobs. Now we are still losing the high-end jobs; we are losing a lot of them to India. If we would have fulfilled the promise that this government made many years ago and one has a computer-programming degree or a high-tech degree of some sort, most of those jobs are now leaving in the millions in the next few years to India where they are paying people with bachelor's degrees in engineering not even \$5 an hour, and we know the kind of money that they make here.

So not only are we losing the high-end jobs; now we are no longer even investing in education. And I just want to share a few statistics with the people who are listening. Student debt is up 66 percent since 1997. Funding for higher ed in Ohio was slashed by over \$18.5 million in 2002, 2003. In-state tuition at places like University of Cincinnati, Kent State University, University of Akron, Youngstown State, the tuition costs have been raised by 10 to 15 percent since basically the late 1990s, and the burden is being placed on the students who are trying to get ahead. So it is up 66 percent. I think the most atrocious statistic that we can have is, because of these increases, in the fall of 2003, an estimated 250,000 students, college qualified, could not afford to either go to college or continue to go to college. They were completely shut out because of the increase in tuition, the lack of buying power for the Pell grants.

□ 2145

So how can we on the one hand say that we want to trade, we want to participate in the global economy, we have the right to lift everybody else up and share some of the wealth of our own country, and then at the same time not invest in our own people? That has clearly been the policy of this administration, it has clearly been the policy of this Congress.

Since 1994, the Republicans have controlled this Chamber, they have had the presidency for the last 3½ years, and they have done nothing. President Bush promised in his election that he was going to increase investments in the Pell Grants for the first year and then graduate it up. It did not happen. College loans today are costing kids more, and the policies that this Congress wants to adopt will cost them even more money in the long run. So something actually needs to be done.

Since 2001, which is another interesting statistic, tuition and fees have increased by almost 30 percent in 49 of the 50 States. When we are talking about Ohio and talking about trying to create jobs in Ohio, you cannot overlook the fact that we have not, whether it was in this Congress or in the General Assembly in Ohio, we have not made sufficient investments into the young people who are going to create the new economy.

Really, as we are losing these jobs, it is also important to note that we do not know what the new economy is going to be. Many of us are advocating for alternative energy sources, investments in high speed rail and a variety of other issues that I think we need to advance on, but those are just our ideas. The private sector will ultimately create what the new economy is to be. But the government's role has been and should continue to be investment in the colleges, investment in the young students, and let those bright, intelligent, creative minds create the new economy we are going to have.

One last statistic that I want to share, and that is the No Child Left Behind, because we have talked a little bit about college but have not talked about K through 12. No Child Left Behind was put in place to move the bottom 25 percent of the students, bottom in regards to test scores and achievement, move them across the finish line, with investments into after-school programs, good idea; investments in the summer programs, good idea; investments into one-on-one tutoring, if necessary.

The philosophy was we are going to pull these kids across the finish line so that they can have a successful life. If they have the one-on-one tutoring, if we make the investment after school, if we make the investment during the summertime and help these kids along with intensive training, that they will be able to succeed and become proficient. So that was the Federal mandate on the States, that was the Federal mandate on the local school districts.

But, lo and behold, we prioritized and we gave tax cuts to the wealthiest people in the country. Half the people in my congressional district did not get one dollar from the tax cut. So this nonsense that was being spewed out on the other side earlier tonight that everyone is benefiting from this tax cut did not hit home in Youngstown, Ohio, in Warren, Ohio, and in Akron, Ohio. It did not show up. Fifty percent of the people in my congressional district did not get one dollar back from the tax cut.

So we have all these Federal mandates underfunded. No Child Left Behind just in Ohio is underfunded by \$1.4 billion just this year, \$1.4 billion. That is going to go to the State to have to comply, and that is going to go down to the local school district. If you are sitting in Ohio and do not think these mandates are going to cause your local school district to have to go and try to pass another property tax increase, you are missing the boat.

So what we are trying to say here is the Federal Government has a responsibility to invest, whether it is No Child Left Behind, college access or anything else, into our young kids and students so they will be able to compete. We have missed the boat. We have not fulfilled our obligation, we have not fulfilled our responsibility, because, as the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) has said, we had to give these tax cuts.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman. We have been joined by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND) and the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES), and also the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY).

I want to call on the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. JONES) next, because she is in the middle of a hearing in the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it is so wonderful to be on the floor of the House again with my colleagues as we talk about the issues that are impacting our State. Right now in the Committee on Ways and Means we are marking up FSC-ETI bill, which has to do with giving corporations who take jobs over to foreign countries greater tax benefits.

Since I am the only Democratic Ohio member on the Committee on Ways and Means, I want to get back over there, because I have a piece of legislation where I am offering an amendment that if the tax provisions provide benefits for manufacturing workers who lost their jobs, we ought to be able to provide benefits to service workers who lost their jobs, because in Ohio it appears we have lost some 133,000 service worker jobs since this administration took over.

I rise with my colleagues as a supporter, a voice for the middle-class and a voice for the lower-class people in our country who make up the backbone of our country, those Americans who since George Bush took office are find-

ing themselves overlooked, underappreciated and kicked to the curb.

I could go on with my statement, but what I am going to do is submit my statement for the record, because I know Ohio is in good hands with the three of you on the floor of the House to talk about what is going on in Ohio.

I need to go back over to the Committee on Ways and Means and make sure the voice of Ohio workers is heard in that hearing. If we get done before the hour is up, I will be back to engage in a conversation with each and every one of you.

You know if unemployment is high in the majority communities in Ohio, in the minority communities it is even higher. I just got some statistics saying in the City of East Cleveland, the unemployment rate is 12.7 percent, 12.7 percent. We need to be a loud voice on behalf of the workers of Ohio.

Let me say to my colleagues here, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), I have been calling him "senior." He does not like to be called senior colleague, but my colleague with greater seniority than me, and my colleague the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND), with greater seniority than me. At least I am more senior to somebody, my colleague with less seniority than me, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN). Keep it up, brothers. I am glad to be here with you.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a voice for the middle class. Those Americans who make up the working class, the backbone of this country. Those Americans, who since President Bush took office are finding themselves overlooked, underappreciated and kicked to the curb.

My home state of Ohio, has seen the worst of this economy. Since President Bush took office the state of Ohio has lost 214,500 jobs. Of those lost jobs, 167,800 of them were manufacturing jobs; 1,300 of those lost just recently in April.

My colleagues across the aisle would argue that the economy is improving; however, the Republicans have much to do to erase the job deficit that they have created through their tax cuts for the wealthy.

The growing industry that the Republicans have been talking about is significantly weaker than the shrinking industry. In Ohio there is a -29 percent wage differences between industries gaining jobs and the industries losing jobs. Additionally, the health insurance coverage for the growing industries is only 53.1 percent compared to 70.2 percent of the shrinking industries—a difference of 17.1 percent.

The economic outlook is even worse for many living in my district. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the Ohio Dept. of Job and Family Services, the unemployment rate in Cuyahoga County is at 6.5 percent with over 43,500 workers unemployed. The cities of Cleveland and East Cleveland have been hit the hardest with Cleveland's unemployment rate at 12.2 percent with 25,000 unemployed workers and East Cleveland with a 14 percent unemployment rate and 2,346 workers unemployed.

This economy has had a disproportionate affect on minorities in this country, particularly

African Americans. According to the U.S. Courts, Administrative Office's Bankruptcy Statistics, 1,625,208 households filed for bankruptcy in 2003, a 33 percent increase from 2000. That is nearly 1 bankruptcy every 19 seconds.

For minorities the statistics are even worse. According to an article by Elizabeth Warren and Amelia Warren Tyagi, entitled the Two Income Trap, 2003, African Americans and Hispanics are much more likely to go bankrupt. Hispanic homeowners are nearly three times more likely than white homeowners to file for bankruptcy, and black homeowners are nearly six times more likely than white homeowners. African Americans are also twice as likely to lose their homes due to foreclosures, often falling victim to the unscrupulous practices of predatory lenders.

Additionally, African Americans have higher levels of debt. The typical African American families had debt of 30 percent of their assets, while the debt of typical white families was 11 percent of their assets.

Homeownership and credit are not the only place where the minorities of this country are feeling the economic squeeze. It is affecting their education where they are seeing an increase in tuition of \$1,207 at 4-year public universities. It is affecting their health care, where here in the United States the total family premium for health insurance has increased by \$2,630 to \$9,068. Even child care costs have increased by \$2,050. A Census study showed that African Americans and Hispanics spend more on child care than whites. The average black family spends 10.4 percent of household income on childcare, and the average Hispanic family spends 10.7 percent, compared with 8.1 percent for white families. This along with skyrocketing gas prices and the outsourcing of Americans jobs, our middle class citizenry is suffering.

It is time for us to provide real legislation and initiative to strengthen middle class Americans. Democrats have a plan to jump-start our economy through tax breaks to encourage businesses to keep jobs here in America, invest in our small- and medium-sized businesses and work to secure universal access to college and expand job training.

The American people deserve better than what they are receiving from this administration and we move forward to address the needs of the American people.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentlewoman for her leadership on these issues on one of the most important committees in this Congress, the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend from southern and eastern Ohio, whose district runs from Youngstown all along the river down to Portsmouth, who has been fighting for better health care since he has been a Member of Congress, for lower drug prices, for working to provide access to health care for veterans, health care benefits, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND).

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) for yielding.

I watched the special order which preceded this special order, some of our

colleagues. Quite frankly, I sat in my apartment watching the television as they spoke, and I was wondering if they are from Michael Jackson's Neverland, because they certainly are not in touch with the real world. The fact is, do these people ever go home and talk to their colleagues on the weekends?

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, President Bush's Secretary of Commerce recently said, "This is the best economy of my lifetime." Again, I wonder, I know that President Bush and his top advisers have personal wealth and do not get out much, but it is pretty amazing.

Mr. STRICKLAND. If I could interrupt and say, for him it may be the best economy of his lifetime, and I do not doubt that. But what about the workers there in Washington County in a little town called Marietta that I met with this week who are losing their jobs?

What about the workers in Belpre, Ohio, in the same county, working in a factory that makes collectible dolls, the Lee Middleton Doll Company. There are about 35 workers, mostly women, many of them single mothers; one of the workers is 73 years of age, who is working in order to buy her medicine. They have been told on the 25th of this month their jobs are gone, because that doll company is taking that work to China.

Now, how much do these people there in Belpre make? The average wage is somewhere between \$7 and \$11 an hour, and they are going to China for cheaper labor. I would like for my colleagues who preceded us to come to Belpre, Ohio, come to Marietta, Ohio, come to Martins Ferry, Ohio, come to Lisbon, Ohio, come to Salem, Ohio, where the Eljer plant that makes bathroom sinks and tubs, they are closing. They are manufacturing in China probably this very evening as we stand here on this floor and speak to each other.

All of those workers are without a paycheck, they are without health care. They are without hope, many of them. Some of these workers are 55, 60 years of age. They do not yet qualify for Medicare. Many of them have health care problems. They are wondering, what are they going to do?

I wish I could tell them that we had a President that I could go to and share their plight and expect some positive reaction from. These people, I do not know, they say the economy is booming, jobs are coming back. They need to come to Ohio, and they need to come to Ohio and not go to a pre-arranged event, where certain people are invited and other people are excluded. They need to come to Ohio and just go from community to community. They will find out what is happening.

People are afraid they are going to lose their jobs if they have not already. They are afraid they are going to lose their health care if they have not already. They are wondering what is going to happen to their kids.

I want to tell you, I was really offended because the Columbus Dispatch did a series of articles on hunger and the use of food pantries by Ohioans, and they did a series of wonderful series just laying out the problem and what the experience is.

When the Bush administration was contacted for a comment, Mr. Eric Bost, B-O-S-T is how you spell his name, the U.S. Under Secretary for Food and Nutrition Services, he had the gall to say, "Well, there has been a bump up in the number of people using these pantries, but how much of that is due to people taking the easy way out I do not know," he said.

Well, Mr. Bost, I wish he would come to Ohio. It is a lot of fun, Mr. Bost, to stand in a food line, waiting to get food for you and your family, for your children. It is a nice way to pass the time of day.

What an insult, for the person in this administration who is supposed to be concerned about food and caring for people who need proper nutrition to make such an outrageous comment. It shows that he, and I guess many of the others in this administration, are totally out of touch.

There are families whose dads and husbands are serving this Nation in Iraq who are showing up at these food pantries. We need to wake up. This is a serious, serious set of circumstances.

It is so frustrating, it is so frustrating to know that in a country where we have the wealth to give huge tax breaks to the richest among us, the richest among us, that we have got families whose dad or whose husband is serving this country in Iraq showing up at a food pantry in order to get the food they need to feed their children. I wonder if the President is aware of that.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. If the gentleman would yield, I read that same series of articles. There was a quote in there by one of the gentlemen, and I cannot think of his name, who worked at either the food pantry or helped run the Second Harvest, and he said the lines were depression-like. Those were his words, depression-like.

So to sit here and say the economy is going just fine, just humming along, that these tax cuts have worked, and we have people, in the same article they said the increase from 2002 to 2003 was I think 17 percent increase in people using the food pantry, and then last year was 19 percent on top of the 17 percent, they have the audacity to come down here and say things are getting better.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, I think it is appropriate and proper for an official of the Agriculture Department to really try to scrutinize what is happening, what is being reported by the Columbus Dispatch, to try to understand what may be causing this. But to have the callousness of heart to imply that this bump up in the use of food pantries is due to people wanting

"the easy way out," what does he mean by "the easy way out?"

This man, like myself and many others who serve in this Chamber, probably goes out and spends as much on a single meal as some families may have to try to feed themselves for several days, and for someone in that kind of position to utter a comment like that, if I was George W. Bush, I would fire that man the moment I became aware of the words he had uttered.

□ 2200

He does not deserve to serve in this administration and to hold the high position that he holds in the Department of Agriculture. He ought to work somewhere else, but he should not be working in a program that is designed to try to help people who are in need of food and good nutrition.

I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I do not hold any ill will personally toward any of these leaders in our country whose values and positions and policies are so different from what, obviously, the four of us believe this country should pursue; but when you hear the Secretary of Commerce say, "This is the best economy in my lifetime," when you hear our colleague from southwest Ohio only 45 minutes or so ago talk about how the economy is roaring back; the gentleman from Texas, one from West Virginia, one from Arizona, one from Indiana talk about the record-setting economic growth, it really does remind me of kind of what happened at the Timken Company.

The Timken Company, as all of us remember, is President Bush's favorite Ohio company. The Timken family has given both President Bush and his father literally millions of dollars and raised millions of dollars. The President went to Timken a year ago and praised the workers for a literally 10 percent increase in productivity, praised this company for all that it has done in this community, deservedly. Then several months later, only about 6 weeks ago, sent out a news release saying that they had record sales their first quarter, then the company went on to say their earnings per share were 60 percent over last year's first quarter. Then, just 2 or 3 weeks ago, Timken announced that it was closing its three plants in Canton, Ohio, laying off 1,300 workers and moving its production to China.

It really is a scenario where I believe the people in the administration just do not see what is going on out there. I mean, Mr. CHENEY, the Vice President, gets \$3,000 a week in pay still from Halliburton, a company which he has been connected with on and off and continues to do favors for. Most of the administration officials got hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of dollars in tax cuts. Most of the Members of this body who believe this economy is humming are not talking to workers who still have their jobs, but who see

the gas prices going up, who see their kids' college tuition going up; as the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) said, in Ohio State alone, a 13 percent tuition increase just this year alone, and schools all over the country are facing that; who see their local property taxes and State taxes going up; who see their wages stagnant and with not really much chance of increases, and face the anxiety of a potential job loss, potential plant closing, potential outsourcing of their white collar job.

And of course they feel anxiety. Even when there are a few jobs being created, President Bush will still be the only President who has had that job loss during his term since Herbert Hoover. But even if the news gets a little better with a few new service jobs that pay not great, but at least pay something, the anxiety people are facing is simply not seen by the members of this administration.

I think one of the reasons their policies are so off course and that President Bush's answer to every economic problem is more tax cuts for those of his social class and his contributors, and more kinds of trade agreements that continue to shift jobs overseas and continue to reward outsourcing. I think so much of it is based on the fact that he has not really seen and really understood that these are not, the Members of Congress or the administration, these are not problems that they really see very often in their daily lives. So they conduct these policies, they formulate these policies that work for some small number of people in this country.

Profits are up for the Timken Company; the problem is they are laying off 1,300 people. So some people at Timken are doing well, the ones that the President knows, but the people who are not doing well in the community, a community which has now lost the money for their schools and to fix their roads and all of that.

Let me yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) who has seen these issues from a slightly different perspective, another Great Lakes industrial State.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio, for organizing this Special Order so that Democrats can talk again about a topic that the White House and President Bush would much rather we do not discuss in public, especially during an election year, and that is the middle-class squeeze. I do come from Illinois, another Midwestern State that has been very, very hard hit by the unemployment that has been exacerbated by this Bush administration.

I want to tell my colleagues about a piece of information that came our way. My husband has a pilot's license to fly private planes. We certainly do not own one, but he gets a magazine called "Flying" that had in it this brochure that had these screaming headlines on it that said it was time to ben-

efit from the new tax law by buying a private plane. For about \$360,000, you can take advantage of this new bonus depreciation program, a 50 percent bonus depreciation program; and you would be able, if you bought this, a mere \$360,000 plane, you could write off in the first year \$260,000.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, if the gentlewoman will yield, I represent an Appalachian district, 12 counties along the Ohio River. My district borders Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Kentucky.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, does the gentleman think they would be interested in this plane?

Mr. STRICKLAND. I do not have a lot of constituents who would want to go out and buy a \$360,000 plane, but I do have a lot of constituents who would like to buy a pair of tennis shoes for their child or maybe some vacation time for the family. Those are the kinds of things my constituents want, not \$360,000 planes that they can write off as a tax deduction.

I am glad the gentlewoman brought this to our attention, and I would like to hear more about it.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, the thing that is really great about this deal is if you take this first year \$260,000, these planes last a long time, maybe the useful life is 20 to 25 years, and it really does not depreciate in value all that much. So you could take this first-year write-off, and then a couple of years later you could sell it and make a whole bunch of money.

This is the kind of deal and this is the kind of constituent that this Bush administration has helped. And how many people are really in the position, certainly not many in Illinois, not very many people I know to take advantage of this great tax break.

As I said, the thing they seem to be missing here is now Republicans are talking about this roaring-back economy. Okay, "back," implying that we have fallen a long way, baby, and now that more jobs are being created, they are saying, is this not a miracle of the Bush administration. But let us remember, we are barely halfway back. We are talking about still this President being the first on record since the Great Depression to go without creating a new net private sector job. Mr. Speaker, 1.9 million Americans who had jobs in 2001 still do not have jobs today.

So this kind of playing with the numbers like, is this not great, I have been trying to figure out, it is sort of like an arsonist who burns down the houses and then says, oh, look, they are building all of these new houses, or they are building these houses, we are coming back. No, you do not want to see the house burn down.

Then of course, if you are lucky enough to be one of the people who is getting a job in this resurging economy, your pay is going to be less, on average; in fact, about \$9,000 less is the average for the new jobs. Your benefits

are going to be limited, and your wages are likely to grow at only about 2 percent a year. And then, over the last 3 years, there has been a \$2,050 increase in child care costs, a \$2,630 increase in family health care premiums, a \$938 rise in the cost of gas per household with teenagers, and that has barely started.

We will have to make a new calculation soon. And a \$1,207 increase in college tuition, which my colleague talked so eloquently about and, at the same time, median family income has dropped nearly \$1,500. So the real question that should be asked, the question that was asked in a past campaign really is, Are you better off today than you were 4 years ago? I want to tell my colleagues that in Illinois that the answer is absolutely no.

I wanted to tell my colleagues some of the numbers in Illinois, about our job loss. Personal bankruptcies in Illinois. Instead of buying fancy airplanes, what we find is that personal bankruptcies in Illinois are at an all-time high: 13,739 people declared bankruptcy in 2003, a 42 percent increase from 2000. A lot of these bankruptcies are caused because of health care costs. You cannot afford to be sick in America anymore if you are an average working family. Most of the people, in fact, who do not have health insurance actually are holding a job. Over 70 percent of the uninsured live in a family with at least one full-time worker. And then we have 44 million people, 15 percent of the U.S. population that lacks health insurance coverage of any kind over the entire year. And the number of uninsured has been steadily increasing at about 1 million people.

So those folks now who used to have kind of a middle-class life, many are without health insurance, getting lower wages, no benefits; and they are often the ones who are actually standing in that line waiting to supplement their food at the end of the month, because ends just do not meet. And if it is a senior citizen who is on a fixed income, then they are trying to figure out how to buy their medication. They know that this prescription drug card is certainly not going to provide the answer to them.

Are you better off today than you were 4 years ago? And for the vast majority of Americans, obviously not the ones that the Secretary of Agriculture or the Secretary of Commerce or the President of the United States or the Vice President of the United States hang out with, or obviously have much occasion to run into at all when they are on the trail at these \$1,000- and \$2,000-a-plate dinners that the President is going to these days; it is about time that he took a look and saw that the middle class is being squeezed out of existence.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Illinois. I appreciate her description of the squeeze on the middle class, because I think when any of us goes out into our

districts and talks to people, not preselected crowds that when prominent politicians, particularly the President, when he went to Youngstown to the area of the gentlemen from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) and (Mr. STRICKLAND), and spoke to a group at the community health center and they were all doctors.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Invitation only.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Invitation only, 150 people, something like that, and they all cheered at everything he said. But when they put themselves out in front of the public and they hear these stories, they hear about someone making \$22,000 a year who has just had their meager health insurance scaled back even further; who is facing increased gasoline prices; who wants to send their kid to Akron University, which had a double-digit tuition increase each of the last 2 years, I believe, on the average; who faces increased child care costs; whose wages likely will not go up, they are just hoping they can keep their job for another year or 2 before it is outsourced, or before their plants close down. And then they read these stories in the paper, they read the Secretary of Commerce say it is the best economy of my lifetime, they hear our colleagues on the other side of the aisle talk about the shining city on the hill and how great the economy is, and they just wonder if they live in the same country that their leaders are presiding over and that their leaders live in.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, can I just say it another way? The vast majority of Americans are not asking for special favors. The American ethic of working hard and taking personal responsibility is alive and well. Americans want to work and take care of their families. But they expect just a little bit of help from the government, that when they get sick, they are not going to go bankrupt, that the school that they send their children to and they pay taxes for will provide a quality education; that when they retire, they will be able to retire in some dignity. The reverse of what the gentleman is saying is that Americans do not want that much from government, but they are not getting even the helping hand that they expect, deserve, and in fact, they have paid for.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, they want Medicare they can depend on, they want decent public education, they want affordable prescription drugs, they want a fair tax system that does not give tax breaks to the wealthy and leave them wanting for pennies, if that; they want fair treatment.

□ 2215

They want fair treatment.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I do not want to belabor this point, but I want to go back to what was said about these Ohioans who find their situation so serious that they have to go to a food pantry to get food for their families, and the fact that a member of this

administration said this terrible thing. I just think it is awful what he said. And the President campaigned as a compassionate conservative, and the good book teaches us that we have a responsibility to care for the poor and to feed the hungry, to feed the hungry. That is a responsibility that we have as individuals, as people of faith. And I believe ultimately as a government. And yet the President's man, this Mr. Bost, when confronted with the fact that there are increased numbers of people in food lines as a result of this Columbus Dispatch series, he said, There is a bump but how much of that is due to people taking the easy way out, I do not know, he says.

Now, this is the response that comes from the Executive Director of the Ohio Association of Second Harvest Food Banks. Her name is Lisa Hamler-Podolski, and she said, "Bost makes unfair judgments of people who use Ohio food banks and food pantries and he underestimates the courage it takes for many people to ask for help."

Now, that is a compassionate attitude. And Mr. Bost's attitude is a callous attitude. And I think the President has got a responsibility here. I think he should hold this man to account. Does this man represent the President's attitude? When the President is informed that there are increased numbers of people standing in line for food throughout Ohio, is he sympathetic? Is he compassionate? Or does he support this person who is a part of his administration and who, quite frankly, used to work for him when he was Governor of Texas. So this is a man he knows apparently pretty well. He brought him from Texas to Washington to oversee this program.

So I think the President has a responsibility either to accept this man's attitude as reflective of his own or to reject this callous attitude and his callous comment.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, as sad as it is, I just want to say how this has just followed a very consistent pattern that this administration has taken with regard to the facts. And most recent, I think the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) already brought it up tonight, was with the Vice President's office regarding Halliburton. We do not have anything to do with their contract, they said. My office had nothing to do with it, the Vice President says. I do not even know what you are talking about, the Vice President says.

Well, it is in the New York Times today. Scooter Libby, the Chief of Staff for the Vice President, approved the contract, okayed it, with Halliburton. State Department, terrorism is down. Well, another analysis comes out. Terrorism is up. They were wrong. Colin Powell apologizing again after the U.N. fiasco. Weapons of mass destruction. No weapons of mass destruction. Greeted as liberators. Greeted as conquerors. They are going to love us. They hate us. We need 200,000 troops. No, we do

not. You are fired. We only need 130 and now we do not have enough.

Consistent pattern, whether it has been foreign policy or domestic policy, this administration at least, if we can give them some kudos but they have been consistent, but consistently wrong and have been consistently harming people.

Mr. STRICKLAND. I think my friend is absolutely correct in pointing out these inconsistencies.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Consistently inconsistent, just to clarify.

Mr. STRICKLAND. I thank the gentleman. I understand that none of us are perfect. No administration is perfect. Every administration makes mistakes. I certainly have made more than my fair share. But the fact is that there is an attitude reflected in these comments and I think in other actions of this administration that indicate that there is a total disconnect between their fantasy land, their world as they imagine it to be, and the real world that you and I and others who go home and spend time with their constituents and listen to their stories and hear their hopes and fears understand.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. It is generous of the gentleman to say that all administrations make mistakes and that even you have made a mistake. But I just want to remind the gentleman that the President could not think of a single mistake when asked at a press conference if there were any mistakes that he has made in his presidency. He said that none came to mind. He thought there probably were some but he could not even think of one.

It seems to me that just condoning, or in the case of the gentleman you talked about, the employee of this administration who says that people in food lines are just maybe looking for an easy way out, I would say that statement is a mistake and that the person that made that statement who is in a position of authority in a department that gives out food stamps that is supposed to help poor people with feeding programs, that is a mistake and he should be fired.

Mr. STRICKLAND. I absolutely believe that.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. The gentleman from Illinois' (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) statement about the President when he could not think of any mistakes that he made, several of us came to the House floor and talked about that a couple of nights, and not so much to be critical of the President, but to sort of think about mistakes this administration has made, because as you learn when you are a child you cannot really learn very much until you acknowledge the mistakes you make and then you correct them.

The President still has not come forward on Iraq, on this issue we talked about, on the prescription drug bill when they said it cost \$400 billion over 10 years and then it later came out it was \$534 billion and they knew that but they did not tell the American public

and they threatened someone's jobs if he told the media or told the Congress.

I think if we are going to move ahead, if we are going to solve this Nation's economic problems, the President, it would be so much better if he would say, hey, this was a mistake. Ronald Reagan did that. Ronald Reagan, when he was going a certain course in driving up the budget deficit, at a couple points he made a change and he did some different things and the country was probably better off for it.

This is really the first President in our lifetimes that I think has not been able to acknowledge a mistake and change course. I do not want him to go around doing *mea culpa*, *mea culpa*, but I do want him to acknowledge a mistake and do a correct and change course. He really has failed to do that.

Again, his answer to every economic problem no matter what the situation is more tax cuts to the wealthy and trickle down economics and more trade agreements. His answer to every situation remains unchanged and he will not change the direction of failed policies. That to me, it is not personal to George Bush, but it just makes me wonder the character and the motive sometimes, but not even so much that it is the judgment of the very stubborn people in the White House that think they have the answer because it fits their ideology and they will not change that direction when it is clear their economic policies have failed. It is clear their environmental policies, their health care policies, as the gentleman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) said, a million more people are uninsured every single year in this country since President Bush took office. Clearly these policies are not working. Would they not want to change these policies and go in a different direction?

Mr. STRICKLAND. I think the ability or the willingness, the capability to admit a mistake is a sign of strength and a sign of character. I fear the person who is so self-assured and so arrogant in his or her self-confidence that they refuse to acknowledge the fact that they may have made a mistake or made a misjudgment or made a wrong decision. I think that kind of person tends to be brittle and inflexible. So, consequently, if you get started down a route or pathway that is the wrong pathway, rather than having the ability or the willingness to change course, you continue to plunge headlong into some economic or social or military disaster.

The fact is that a lot of mistakes have been made. We made a terrible mistake when we sent our soldiers into battle without having adequate body armor. We made a terrible mistake as a government, as a Pentagon, as an administration, when we had soldiers in Iraq without up-armored Humvees.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. That is a mistake that neither the Pentagon or the President has acknowledged, even

though we know dozens if not more men and women were killed because they did not have body armor, because the Humvees were not up-armored with the kind of protection that we know how to put on and failed to do.

No one in the administration, in the Pentagon was punished for that failure, no one was reprimanded, no one lost their job. Yet dozens of young American men and women died because of it.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Actually, it was reported in Newsweek and other places that there had been a Defense Department study that showed that perhaps as many as a quarter of those troops in battle that were killed or injured would not have been had they had the proper equipment, 25 percent. So we are talking about more than a few dozen.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. So imagine if the administration when we first were in Congress, and all four of us talked about this, as members of the Committee on Armed Services, as members of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, as members who were involved in a lot of Iraq things in the beginning, every one of us came to the floor as well as at least a couple of dozen other Members of Congress and hundreds of representatives of veterans' organizations and people advocating for soldiers, for their better treatment, if the administration had said earlier when we first started talking about this, right when the war started in March and April of 2003, if they had said, we have made a mistake. We have got to do something about this today, and if we do not do something, the people who are responsible will be punished, imagine how many more lives would have been saved, how many fewer soldiers would have been injured and lost their limbs and capacities.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, we are standing here in the Chamber. We are talking about problems that we see, mistakes that have been made, and some I guess would say why regurgitate that. That is old news. What we need to do is look forward and decide what we are going to do from now forward rather than dredging up mistakes that have been made. My answer to that question, and I think it is a legitimate question, but my answer to that question is this: The same people who made those faulty decisions, who made those misjudgments, who made those mistakes and are unwilling to admit them are the same people who are still in charge and they want to make decisions regarding our future. They want to make decisions regarding our future military actions. They want to make decisions regarding our future health care policy. They want to make decisions regarding our future education policy. They want to make decisions about a whole range of things.

The American people, I think, deserve to know that these people who are currently in charge and want to remain in charge are the very ones who have made these mistakes and refused

to acknowledge them and are continuing to pursue policies which are harmful to this country. So we need to call attention to the past in order for us to have some sense of what we can do to correct the situation and move this country forward in a positive manner.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Our responsibility here is to identify what these problems are in order to change course for the country. We are not just sitting here talking amongst the four of us. We are here talking to the American people because we want to engage them in the discussions. Something that the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) said and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND) said that I want to identify with, when we talk about people not admitting their mistakes we have lost the constitutional balance in the legislative branch and our oversight ability on the legislative branch because it is all controlled by one party. We are in a very, very dangerous situation.

I think this is something that maybe the American people do not understand at home is that, and I hate to use this as an example, but when President Clinton was in and this House was controlled by the Republicans and the Senate was Republican, the Republican chairmen of the committees had the ability to subpoena witnesses and call hearings in which they could oversee the executive branch. In this case it was Mr. Clinton. But today we have the Republicans who control these committees in the House. They control the committees in the Senate. There is no oversight of the executive branch, and so we are getting legislation and mandates coming out of the executive branch with no oversight from the legislative body.

Article I, section I, the people should govern. We do not have the ability, the minority party, to subpoena witnesses and do what we have to do to oversee the executive branch. I think the American people need to know that. There is a reason why they are getting away with all of this and we do not have the proper oversight abilities.

Mr. STRICKLAND. The words of the gentleman reminded me of something that happened just 2 weeks ago. We had a forum to discuss the mandatory funding for VA health care. We had a forum and we had representatives of the national veterans organizations before us and they laid out their rationale for mandatory funding for VA health care.

□ 2230

The reason it was a forum and not a hearing is because we could not call a hearing. We do not have the authority. Only the majority party can call an actual hearing, and so we had a forum; and in that forum, we did receive information from the American Legion, from the DAV, from the Vietnam Vets, from the purple heart folks, every veterans organization in this country; but it is sad that it could not be an official hearing which would have a different

standing within the Congress in terms of its ability to actually deal with legislation and move it forward into a place where it could finally become acted upon.

So that is an example of total one-party control of the Supreme Court, of the Senate of the United States, of the House of Representatives and of the Presidency; and that means that they are responsible, totally responsible. They cannot shift the blame. They cannot say it is someone else's fault. It is the fault of the leadership of this party.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friends for joining me.

It is the duty of us, as we talk about the middle class ways, and it is our duty to offer what we would do positively with what we have talked about in the past with Crane-Rangel and looking at these trade agreements again and extending unemployment compensation and doing the right things and changing the economic policy into the right direction in this country.

I thank my friends, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND), the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), and the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) for joining us.

WILLINGNESS TO ADMIT FAILURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) is recognized for half the remaining time until midnight.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, it has been an interesting discussion of the issues of the day for the last hour or so by the opposing party, and certainly I am sure that to a large extent the remarks are heartfelt and are as a result of a distinct difference in opinion as to exactly where this country should be and how the leadership should actually be constructed.

It is intriguing to me in a way as I sat and listened to the discussion about when the Members of the other side talk about the need for admissions of wrongdoing or failure. It would be so much more, I think, credible for them to approach this issue by first saying that we on the left have to admit certain things that we now know to be inaccurate.

Let us start with the fact that the entire world has disavowed our economic theories of greater government control of the economy, of cooperation with foreign governments, especially those governments that were totalitarian in nature and Communist by design, but all of these things have failed and we know it and the whole world recognizes it. The fall of the Communist empire, as a result of the variety of strategies employed by the United States and by others, including the Pope, as a matter of fact, we now see that it was a house of cards that

had no real basis in reality; that could not sustain itself; that socialism was not ever, ever able to deliver its promise of a better life for the people under its control; that greater government control of the economy, that larger government enterprises, that opposition to Communism, that all of these things were failures. It would be so much more credible for our friends on the other side of the aisle to approach this discussion of the need for willingness to admit failure had they started with that.

Had they started with saying, you know what, we have tried, we for 40 years, we had control of this body, Presidency, it was a Democratic-controlled Congress, certainly for the majority of the 40 years prior to 1994, and we pushed the idea of greater Federal involvement in the lives of Americans. We did so because we believed it was right. We did so because we believed the theories that were supposed to be there to substantiate the claim that greater control of our lives by the government, even control of the means of production by the government, the things we call socialism today, those claims have now been proven to be false.

It would be so refreshing to have them stand in front of the House, Mr. Speaker, and say we were wrong and we are willing to admit it; we are willing to admit that people do better throughout the world, as a matter of fact, not just in the United States. But throughout the world, it is the governments under which they live that are governments that espouse a free enterprise, a democratic kind of government that allows for individual liberty and individual enterprise. We were wrong to suggest that we should not confront Communism as forcefully as possible and that we should not, in fact, increase all of our Defense appropriations so as to essentially force the Communist empire to collapse under its own weight which is, of course, what we did, what Ronald Reagan proposed and it worked.

Most of the leaders of the Free World, and even some leaders of what was in the past a totalitarian country, came to the United States for the purposes of paying homage to Ronald Reagan and admitted that his strategy and his ability to see what was good for America and what was good for the world was, in fact, the right way to go.

Yet, never did I hear in the discussion here for the preceding hour that our friends were willing to concede the point that they were wrong and that the whole world knows it, and that people, every time they have had the opportunity, they voted to cast off totalitarian dictatorships and socialist enterprises.

So, as I say, it would have been better, it would have been certainly more convincing had they come here first with an apology for all of the things that they have been espousing for the last half a century and now they know

to be incorrect and failures of policies, but they did not do that. They just suggested that what we are doing today is wrong. Well, what makes us think then that what their view is of today is any better, any more correct, any more insightful, any more intuitive than what their view of what was yesterday and the world in which we lived up till today? Why should we trust them with guiding this Nation's future?

I did not hear them disavow the principles upon which their party and upon which, in fact, the left has been relying for years and today only, only exists and are espoused in institutions of higher education primarily in this country but perhaps even around the world; but everywhere where the rubber hits the road, everywhere where people have to actually go out and make a living for themselves and their families, everywhere where people are struggling to overcome the kinds of government tyranny under which they may live, everywhere where that exists, people yearn for something quite different than what the left offers them.

So that realization, that empirical evidence that we have to say that all of those ideas were wrong, that evidence has not yet manifested itself, and that realization of the error of their ways, it has not manifested itself in any of the rhetoric I heard tonight while I was waiting to deliver my remarks on, I should say, a totally different subject.

Nonetheless, I thought I should comment on what is apparent to me to be at least a discrepancy in the testimony that was provided here by our friends on the other side of the aisle for the last hour.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, let me go on to the discussion of an issue that I have many times in the past tried to bring forward on this floor and an issue that I believe to be of enormous importance to the country and certainly an issue that I believe needs the attention and debate of my friends and colleagues in the Congress of the United States and certainly a reflection of the debate that goes on throughout the country every single day around water coolers in offices and on work sites throughout America and around dinner tables throughout America. That debate and that discussion revolves around the issue of immigration and immigration reform, and it has many, many implications for who we are as a Nation, where we go from here, and how successful we may be in trying to achieve whatever goals we establish for ourselves.

It is connected to an even more significant challenge to the United States, and that is the reestablishment of the idea of exactly who we are, of what we are, what principles we espouse as a Nation, of what principles we can adhere to as a people.

This part of the debate is an extremely important one, hard to bring up, hard to articulate. Certainly it is

impossible to do so in a bumper-sticker fashion. It does require some degree of analysis that goes beyond the 30-second or 60-second sound bite, but I believe it to be a very important debate and discussion to undertake.

If we are to believe the polls that have been taken for the last decade or more on the issue of immigration, Americans generally believe that, number one, we should, in fact, enforce the law against people coming here illegally. That means enforcing our borders, making sure to the extent possible that people do not come into this country without our permission, people do not come here that we do not know about, and that we make people come into this country through a normalized and legal process.

The United States of America is unique in many ways. One way is that we accept more people into this country every single year legally, through a legal process of immigration and also temporary visitor status, than any country in the world. We are and have been always a beacon of light to the world, a beacon to which many people are attracted.

It is peculiar, to say the least, that even with this policy, this very liberal policy of immigration and legal access into our country through temporary worker status, we still have and allow for millions of people to enter this country illegally. We do not know who they are. We do not know why they are coming. We do not know how long they are staying, and we do not know where they are once they are here.

□ 2245

Now, most Americans will say this is a bad policy to pursue, that it is not good for America, it is not good for our future, and that we should establish the concept of the nation-state and defend that concept with essentially defending our borders.

Beyond that many people suggest, a majority of Americans even suggest we need to reduce legal immigration until such time we can get this problem under control. Every poll says that is what America wants. Now, a dilemma is then created by the fact that this is the will of the people, and it has been for a long, long time. It is not new; it did not just happen after President Reagan said he wanted a guest worker/amnesty program and that created quite a furor. It has been the case for years that that is what the American people want. They want borders enforced, they want controls on immigration, and yet this body and more peculiarly, even cities and States throughout the Nation, which one would think would be more reflective of local citizen input than even the Congress of the United States, which we know has always been historically way behind the curve in terms of popular sentiment, but one would think that we would see reflected in city councils and State legislatures, one would think we would see far more of a reflection of

the position that I have just described that is held by a majority of people in the country.

The most difficult question we have to answer, why is that the case? Why do our elected officials seem to be paying little attention to what most Americans feel? There are a number of answers to that question. They are not necessarily pleasant to discuss, but they are true. That is for the most part we see legislatures and the Congress of the United States and even city councils that are very responsive to pressure and pressure groups and less responsive to the general will of the people if it is not reflected through these pressure group-type of organizations.

For the most part, politicians in the United States have concluded that they can address this issue by essentially finessing it, by agreeing theoretically with people when they are in an atmosphere, an arena in which doing so would be to their political advantage. They can agree there is a problem with immigration and that we should do something about it and we should stop illegal immigration. Everybody will mouth the platitudes connected to that concept.

But they believe also that they can finesse this issue by essentially using the rhetoric to mollify a certain part of their constituency while simultaneously doing things to attract another group; and these are very powerful groups in many ways, certainly very vocal groups which press for open borders, for relaxation of law enforcement, and have a totally different opinion about how this country should actually develop.

For the most part, they are trying to serve two masters here. Most politicians are trying to serve two masters, and they have been successful in doing this in many ways because for the most part people in the United States when asked how do they feel about immigration come down on our side, but are not organized in political pressure groups designed to actually force politicians to acknowledging it. They are simply voters and citizens who go to work every single day and have other things on their minds.

It is also true that the parties themselves, the Democrats and the Republicans, are both inclined to do exactly what I say that individual politicians do, and that is pander on the one side to immigration, pro-immigration groups, and on the other side placate those people who are concerned about it, placate them through rhetoric, but not through action. They are trying to play this dicey game, and sometimes it works.

We have seen throughout the land the development of a very interesting phenomenon whereby foreign countries have used their consular offices in the United States to lobby States and city governments to get them to accept for purposes of identification something called the matricular consular ID card that is given to a person not by the

United States of America but by a foreign government. And then that government comes to an American city, county, or State and says please accept the card we give out as proper identification.

Now of course Members have to understand that the only reason that the card is necessary is because we have millions and millions of people who are living here illegally. Those are the only folks to whom such a card would be important. If a person is here in this country legally, of course, they have a document which we have given them, a visa, a passport stamp, something that the United States of America has said this allows you to enter our country. Even if you are not here as a citizen, you are a legal alien resident. That is the term.

So the only people who need the matricular consular are illegally present in the United States, and everybody knows that. The governments that are pushing it, and the cities and States that are accepting these things know that they are only helpful to people who are here illegally, and they are only helpful if a city or State agrees to accept that card, thereby making it very difficult for people who actually enforce immigration law in this country. Making it very easy, on the other hand, to live here if you are here illegally. You will get all of the benefits of anyone who is here legally. You will be afforded a variety of privileges that have heretofore been allowed only to those people who were citizens of the United States or at least here with the permission of our government. That is happening throughout the country. We have seen it. We have seen cities capitulate. We have actually seen cities, it is bizarre as you can imagine, we have seen cities that actually allow people to vote if they are not legal residents of this country.

The Mayor of this city, Washington, D.C., the District, proposed this several months ago for D.C. He said that anybody who is here as a resident should be able to vote regardless of whether or not they are citizens. Again, if we put this up for a vote, a vote of the people, the specific issue to allow people who are here illegally to vote, how many places in America can you imagine that would pass? Maybe in D.C., that is true, but not too many other places in this country would say that is okay; but cities and States are doing it.

In the next few days we will be debating a number of appropriations bills, one which will fund the Department of Homeland Security, the Commerce-State-Justice appropriations bill. I will offer a series of amendments to that bill. I will tell Members right now those amendments will fail on the House floor. They have done so in the past. That certainly will not stop me from introducing them again.

But I suggest, every one of the amendments that I propose, if I proposed them to the American people in the form of some initiative process or

some way to let all America vote, I know and certainly all polls tell us they would pass. One, I will propose that no city that has established a sanctuary policy, that is a policy that allows people to come into that city who are here illegally and be protected from the Federal Government's attempts to actually enforce immigration law, where cities that will pass legislation, pass municipal ordinances saying if a person is here illegally, that will not effect the way people are treated by their own police department. In fact, if police pick someone up for violating a law, robbery, rape, murder or going through a red light, if they find that person is here illegally, they will not report that to the Department of Immigration Control and Enforcement.

Those laws are on the books in various cities throughout the country, and even States are undertaking similar types of proposals. Maine has recently declared itself, or is in the process of declaring itself, to be a sanctuary State.

I am going to suggest in the form of an amendment to an appropriations bill that no city or State that adopts these kinds of policies should be able to obtain any of the grants that are available through the bill through the Department of Homeland Security.

I have in fact done that in the past, and I think we got about 110 or 120 votes, I cannot remember now; and it will probably not be much more than that when I introduce that amendment again.

I have another amendment that says any city or State that gives illegal aliens driver's licenses will likewise be restricted from obtaining Federal funds under the act.

It is amazing to think about the fact that we have States that are willing to do this and in fact have done this, provide people who are here illegally with the form of identification as close to a national ID as we have that will allow people to have access to every aspect of American life as a regular citizen would have, and make it therefore much easier for someone to be in this country illegally. That goes for the person who is here, quote, to only do the job that no other American will do, as if there in fact was such a job, and it also goes for the person who is here to kill every single one of us and our children. They can use that passport into American society that we call a driver's license just as well as the person who is only here to do a job no one else will do; and yet these things are happening, and I will go ahead and suggest that, in fact, my amendments will fail.

I am going to do another amendment as soon as the bill for foreign appropriations comes to the floor, and that is just another way of saying foreign aid. When our foreign aid bill comes to the floor, I am going to introduce an amendment saying that the foreign aid to any country will be reduced by the

amount of money that is flowing from this country, from the nationals of the foreign country who are working here, anybody who is working here and sending money back to the country of origin, and that is called remittances, that is how we refer to the dollars sent back from people working here for the most part illegally, and taking money out of our communities and not allowing that money to go to work to create jobs and improve the economy of the communities in which the folks here are living, most of them communities in desperate need of economic stimulus; but those dollars are flowing to people in countries outside of the United States.

We had a report not too long ago that that number, the number of dollars that flow just to Latin America, not to the rest of the world, just to Latin America is about \$30 billion a year.

There are several countries in the world that have more than 10 percent of their gross domestic product made up from remittances from the United States of America.

□ 2300

I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that if foreign aid is the simple transfer of wealth from one country, in this case America, to another country, that we can do it better through remittances than through writing a check to a corrupt government that will skim off almost all of the dollars before they ever get to anybody who actually may need them. So as a result, I think we should punish those countries for the economic policies they have adopted that have caused the populations in their country to despair and to be subjected to impoverishment. We should not reward the thugs that run these countries. We should stop giving them money and we should say, okay, we know you are getting billions of dollars a year from the United States going straight to people who are certainly in need in your country, so we will not be giving you that money in foreign aid anymore, we will just allow the flow of remittances to make up for that.

Most of the countries in the Western hemisphere that have been lobbying so hard to get the United States to maintain an open door policy toward immigration, in fact, the elimination of borders, it is interesting, many people have asked me why it is in fact that Mexico and Guatemala and El Salvador and a number of these countries have been so adamant about getting us to open our borders to their nationals. There is a reason, Mr. Speaker, and it is not just simply because they want to see the people in their country prosper. It is because they want to see the people in their country become the source of revenue for the folks in their own country. They recognize that they can maintain their power more easily if the masses are being provided the sustenance they need through the remittances that are coming from the United States, then they can rely on

the foreign aid that we send them to go into their pockets and to prop up their regime. I think we should reduce that. I think we should stop that. I will propose an amendment to the foreign ops bill to do exactly that.

If we put that amendment to the country, Mr. Speaker, is there anyone in this room, is there anyone on either side of the aisle that really and truly believes that would fail in the eyes of the American people? No, of course not. We all know it would pass overwhelmingly if the American people were allowed to vote on it individually. It will fail here in this body. But I will continue to do that. I will continue to offer amendments of this nature. I will continue to talk about the need to do something about immigration and immigration control because I believe it is perhaps the most important domestic policy issue we face as a nation.

As I said at the beginning of my remarks, Mr. Speaker, the issue of immigration and that sort of thing does not just revolve around the issue of jobs although it is enormously important to America. It is a fact that we are importing massive numbers of low-skilled, low-wage people who in fact hold down the wage rates of low-skilled, low-wage American workers, making it even more difficult for them to ever work their way out of the cycle of poverty. It is absolutely true that that occurs. No one suggests that massive importation of cheap labor has helped the low-income wage earner in America. Nobody suggests that. Even the most devoted pro-immigration lobby never suggests that it helps the poor in America. It increases the number of the poor. In fact, when we do our surveys every year about people living in poverty, it is amazing, but a huge percentage, somewhere near 90 percent of those people whom we now identify as in poverty in the United States are people who are in fact noncitizens of the United States. It is also true that those people who have dropped out of the job market, who have had a harder and harder time to actually get a better job and crawl their way up out of their particular situation have been negatively affected and that job is made much more difficult by the massive number of people who are here illegally or by immigrants here legally or not. So it is an important issue.

The fact that we export all of our high tech jobs to India and other places while simultaneously importing very high tech, very capable people to take the place of American workers because they will work for less and that in turn holds down the wage rates of middle-income workers in this country, all of those things are true.

We will certainly see and do see as we look around the country the economic effects of open borders. It does benefit multinational corporations, that is true. It does not benefit the people who in fact work for them or the nations in which those multinational corporations exist or call home. Few corporations today can even be thought of as

being American corporations. In fact, I think it was Ralph Nader sent a request to all of the huge corporations in America asking them to begin their board meetings with the Pledge of Allegiance. Few even responded but those that did were irate that he would suggest such a thing, suggesting that there is no allegiance to a nation state, that their allegiance is to a corporate bottom line. And if that bottom line can be enhanced by ignoring the needs of the country in which they are housed, that is okay, they are going to do it because that is exactly what they are constructed for.

So it is true that this issue is a jobs issue. It is certainly true that this issue is a national security issue. As I said, there are people who are coming into this country hidden among those who are coming here for relatively benign purposes but there are people coming in to do us great, great harm, undeniably true. We have found some here already. We have arrested them. Some of them we have been able to actually take out of circulation not necessarily because we can immediately bring them to trial on the basis of espionage or some sort of allegation that deals directly with their support of terrorism but because they have violated immigration laws. That is the first thing we go to. They are here illegally. It is nice we have something to use and it is nice that we would actually use it, but the fact is that even these things are not as important in totality as the issue I discussed earlier, and that is the very difficult problem we are going through in America with identifying who we are.

There is a great book that has just come out. It is in fact called "Who Are We?" It is by Samuel Huntington. I consider him to be an enormously talented observer of the American political and social scene. He has written other books, one called "The Clash of Civilizations" that I have read several times over. I am about halfway through "Who Are We?" I find it to be a fascinating read. I believe that that is the ultimate question with which we are dealing, who are we? Where are we going? What is it we are going to try and accomplish as Americans? What does it mean to be an American?

Our students in our classrooms throughout the country are being fed a steady diet of anti-Americanism, sometimes subtle, sometimes overt. This diet includes a revision of history that creates a picture I think totally and completely incorrect and certainly skewed that would show American history and Western civilization itself as being inherently evil, something out of which nothing good could come. A textbook I remember picking up in a junior high I was in in my district, this was a couple of years ago now, started out, the chapter on American history, as Columbus came here and destroyed paradise.

□ 2310

That was not in italics. It was not just a quote they were going to then analyze. That was the way the textbook portrayed Columbus's trip and his landing here on our shores, on the shores of North America. That kind of thing where we have made it very confusing for Americans to even understand or identify who, in fact, or what we are, combined with massive immigration where that same message is given to people who are not necessarily coming here, by the way, to become Americans but to simply achieve a greater economic level of existence and prosperity, which certainly is an admirable and laudable and understandable goal. But it behooves us, I think, to change the way in which we teach our children, the way in which we discuss this issue of multiculturalism, which has gotten to the point where it becomes almost a cult and that anything that is said to suggest that American culture, that American history, and that Western Civilization is, in fact, worthy of analysis, worthy of allegiance, anything that suggests that is determined to be sort of against the grain; and it is certainly not going to be accepted by academia as a legitimate subject matter.

I recently had the opportunity of going to a high school in my district where 250 students were asked to assemble. And we talked for a while, and one of them asked me a question. They sent these questions up. And it was written out, and it said what do I think is the most serious problem facing America today? And I said, Before I answer that question, let me ask you something: How many in this room, 250, approximately, students, how many in this auditorium would agree with the statement that you live in the greatest country in the world? And about maybe two dozen raised their hands, and they did so sheepishly, the ones that did. It was none of that immediately hands go up, sure, of course, naturally, we live in the greatest country in the world. That did not happen.

And they looked along the walls where their teachers were lined up in this auditorium, and I could see in their faces that they were concerned. I am not saying that the ones that did not answer were suggesting that they did not like America, hated America. I am just saying that they did not have the slightest idea, they had absolutely no intellectual ammunition to defend themselves if they were to postulate that, in fact, America is the greatest country in the world. They were not taught anything that would lead them to that. In fact, they were taught things that would make them feel very sheepish and sensitive about making that kind of statement.

That is what I consider to be the real issue with which we are involved and which we should be debating: changing the way in which we look at ourselves, changing the way in which we teach our children about who we are, and cer-

tainly changing the way in which we try to bring immigrants into American mainstream, which today does not exist. Today we tell them they should stay separate, keep a separate language, even keep political affiliations with countries other than the United States. This is all done to our great and long-lasting disadvantage. It is a very serious issue, one that, as I say, requires more time and attention and analysis than can be given during a 30-second or even 1-minute ad during a political campaign. But it is the reason why I do come to the floor as often as I do to try to raise the issue.

I could be, of course, 180 percent off course here. I could be totally wrong. But I believe with all my heart that at least this deserves the debate, that this body should afford it, and that this arena would be the perfect place for that to occur.

30-SOMETHING DEMOCRATS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for the remainder of the time until midnight.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, once again, as I always start, it is an honor and a privilege to stand here and speak not only to Members of the House but also to the American people. And as the Members know, for several weeks now, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) has appointed a 30-Something working group to address the issues that are facing middle-class Americans throughout America and some of the issues that we need to work on to make sure that their voice is heard in this democracy and this U.S. House of Representatives.

Lately, we have been having quite a bit of discussion on some of the issues that are facing democracy here in the United States, and we have been working with Rock the Vote in making sure that young voices are heard throughout this country to make sure that they have access to voting, to make sure that they know the things that they need to know to fight to register on their campus.

There have been several reports that have been quite disturbing throughout the country. We encourage young people to go to rockthevote.com to find out more about voter suppression that is happening throughout this country. We also inform young people in the public and their parents that are also concerned about making sure that they are able to receive good information to go on the rockthevote.com site or the 30-something Dems site to make sure that they get information so that they can share it with supervisors of elections that are misinformed.

Based out of that discussion, we received several e-mails, Mr. Speaker, of times that young people had to actually go get an attorney to register to vote. And I think that that is very unfortunate due to the fact that many of

us in this country are concerned about voter apathy, concerned about the 18- to 32-year-olds or 18- to 24-year-olds, the reason why they do not vote or the reason is not great enough for them to vote. We have to make sure that their voices are heard.

And in this light, I want to share again with the American people that are watching us right now that in 1979, the U.S. Supreme Court spoke to this issue. It said if a person is enrolled in school and needs to be out of state or in state, they have the right to register where they are attending school. That is so very important.

The reason why I mention that is the fact that, as we start looking at issues that are hindering young Americans from being able to educate themselves, that once they leave that higher education opportunity that they are given in their State or another State, they should not leave that educational experience in debt. When they leave that experience in great debt because of student loans, because the President said that he was going to raise the Pell grant opportunities for young people that would like to educate themselves, middle-age people that would like to educate themselves, to \$5,100 versus what we are experiencing now, a little bit over \$4,000 and some change, that is more a reality now for young Americans than fiction. So I want to make sure that they have the opportunity to vote.

As we cut the Federal commitment here in Washington, D.C., States do not have what we have, the opportunity to put it on a credit card and continue the deficit clock is running. Right now the deficit is well out of control, and we are experiencing the highest deficit in the history of the Republic. The States do not have that opportunity. They have to balance their budget. When they balance their budget, they then pass that cost on to local government and in this case to State university systems that then ask students to pay more money for tuition and for services that ordinarily they would receive at a lower cost or for free.

The educational experience is quite financial these days, and I think it is important that these individuals or the young people or middle-age individuals, even in the community college experience, that they understand that they have an opportunity to have their voice heard in November; and it is very important that they are able to not only have their voices heard in November but also during the primary season to let it be known that they are voters too. They are our future, and it is important that we stand with them and for them.

□ 2320

On another point, and I am just going back to some of the e-mails we received, I think it is important for us to talk a little bit about what we are experiencing here today, Mr. Speaker, even though we have seen a 6 cents or

5 cents in some areas, 3 cents in others, drop in gas prices.

I will share with you even from my great State of Florida that this is really putting a crunch on the middle-class. They did not receive an additional dollar from an employer or a small business person did not receive more dollars from a bank to be able to deal with the gas price crunch that we have right now.

I have a chart here, Mr. Speaker, if I can just share it here with the American people what has happened over the last 2 years in America. In 2002, the gas prices were \$1.44. This is just for regular grade gas, the retail prices. Then in 2003 it was raised to \$1.60 here. Then in 2004 it skyrocketed, and it was projected to be \$1.87. Now, May 31, in recent numbers of this year, it is now up to \$2.05.

I know some Americans are looking and saying, "I want to know where I can find \$2.05 gas." Before I came here to the floor, I was going to fill up my tank, and then I hesitated and I said hopefully tomorrow will be a better day. We cannot judge our spending based on the fact, middle-class spending, based on the fact maybe the gas prices will be cheaper tomorrow, and in many instances throughout America it is going to be quite a lot higher.

OPEC has done some things that are very interesting. They have put more crude on the market now to try to deal with the issue of gas prices. But I will tell you that this administration has to have a better response than to try to encourage OPEC to do something that is short-term.

This is a real issue. We have Americans that are trying to work, trying to get to work, trying to use mass transit, and at the same time we are trying to find some of the solutions to be able to alleviate the financial burden of American families at the same time we are stalling legislation here in this House.

There is a Federal highway bill. The President has also said he would veto it due to a bipartisan effort here in this House to make sure we are able to give States the necessary dollars for the roads, bridges and modes of transportation to be able to help the middle-class and help working Americans.

I am here today as a witness from a State that we have individuals that wake up and go to work every day, young Americans that are trying to do the things they have to do to be able to meet the obligations of their family. And so many of those individuals that are watching us now with one eye open, they have to wake up. Their reality is at 6 a.m. in the morning to get their kids ready for school and make sure they have what they need. If they are fortunate to have transportation or can afford to fill that tank up, take them to school, go to work. These are individuals that know what it means for a 15-minute break in the morning, a strict half an hour lunch break, punch in and out, and 15 minutes in the afternoon.

These same working individuals, I must add, and I am not talking about individuals that are not contributing to our economy in the way they should and trying to support their families, these are the same individuals that are a part of the 43 million Americans that are working every day that do not have health care.

I think it is so very, very important for us to take up this point, the fact there is not a bill that is being considered in this Congress that will see the light of day at any time in the very near future that will be a national health care plan so individuals will have an opportunity to provide for themselves, to provide adequate health care.

If you want to talk about a health savings plan that the President has proposed, under these gas prices, under the strain American families already have, there is not a lot of room about talking about okay, we are going to save in case I get sick. They need preventive care. They have to have it, their children need to have it, and it is important to prioritize that.

If we are going to make tax cuts permanent for the millionaires in this country, knowing of the unmet needs of being able to find alternative fuel sources here in the United States, to be able to pull back on our dependency on crude oil, that I believe has a lot to do with our American troops as I speak on guard in Iraq and in the Middle East, and if we are going to be able to set forth an America that is set for young people and families that are trying to do the best they can to provide for their families, something has to give, Mr. Speaker.

The 30-something group is working toward solutions, not just identifying these problems, but solutions, and continuing to put pressure on this administration to make sure that the President knows that it is very important that we do some of the things that American people need.

One, we need to make sure that on this gas issue that Americans do not have to find themselves going to a gas station and saying "give me \$5 worth." Now, that is something that I used to do when I was in college. There was a time in college when you are financially challenged, you probably do not have the opportunity, I know I did not, to fill my tank up every time I showed up at the pumps, but it was something I knew was temporary in nature.

But individuals that have jobs that work every day trying to provide for their families, they should not pull up with a child seat in the back and say, "Give me \$5, because that is all I can afford, and hopefully it will last me for a day or two if I do not turn on my air conditioner."

This is reality in America right now. We are at war now. A lot of folks feel throughout the world we are at war because of oil and our dependency on oil. Is there a real move from this administration to take us off that dependency of Middle Eastern oil?

I think it is important for us if we are going to hold Saudi Arabia's feet to the fire that this administration should stand up to Saudi Arabia and stop making excuses for them. I think it is also important for us to realize we have to find alternative ways of finding fuel and encouraging more cleaner burning vehicles.

I think it is also important for us to realize that we have to do some work here in America in trying to find new oil resources within our own control, but also be very sensitive not to go into natural environmental areas in this country that we have great respect for, that we would turn into an example that we chastise other countries for doing. I think that this could definitely be able to assist us in our efforts in keeping gas prices down.

My talk here tonight is about making sure that individuals that have children, or do not have children that are trying to make this time in their lives from college on to 40, 45, and on, and even grandparents that are now stepping in, or the parents of these children that I am mentioning in this age range, that are trying to provide not only information, but provide financial assistance to their children because they are not able to make ends meet, it is in that vein.

I think that it is important for us to remember that declining real wages are putting a squeeze on middle-class Americans, and that gas prices have a lot to do with it.

I also want to share with you that in the last 3 months, average wages in the United States increased at an annual rate of 2.2 percent, but what is sad is the fact that during this same time, the most recent stage of so-called Americans that actually have worked, took a pay cut as relates to the costs they had to spend for their health care.

So in this circle of not doing anything at all, in this circle of not passing a transportation bill that is going to help not only States be able to stimulate more jobs or be able to help us to find alternative ways of finding fuel outside of the Middle East, we are at a standstill now, and we are at a standstill that Americans are actually suffering. We are at a standstill of their voices being heard.

I think it is important that Americans understand that this Federal Government has chosen, this administration has chosen to make sure that millionaires receive a permanent tax cut over health care for working Americans, over making sure that we are able to keep gas prices down so that Americans can be able to continue doing the things that they are trying to do and providing for their families, over a prescription drug benefit for seniors.

So when we start talking about the middle-class and we start talking about the 30-somethings and the 20-somethings and even those individuals who are looking forward to getting to that particular age, we look at all of

these impediments. So our government is supposed to be here to assist, not to hinder. I do not think that anyone sets out at the beginning of the day saying, "Well, let's see what I can do to throw a log in front of young people in America."

□ 2330

But I think it is important for us to bring into question this upcoming election season whose side are you on when it comes down to the policies that are either being made or not being made in the process.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to just share a few other issues as it relates to what is happening to so many young people, and as we look at the squeeze of what is happening with the gas prices, as we look at the squeeze of what is not happening as it relates to health care, and what I mentioned at the top of the hour, voter suppression; and I know that this Congress has tried to deal with that. I have to mention, when we talked about a couple of weeks ago, the issue of Iraq, and I am going to come back to the middle-class squeeze.

In some of these families we have troops that are serving and we have parents that are raising children on their own. Now, they receive correspondence, they also receive support from the spouse or the significant other that is fighting on behalf of this country of what they have been told to do in Iraq and Afghanistan and other areas. We even have troops in Haiti as I speak right now trying to provide some way of life for that country, and security. No one is giving anyone a gas voucher to that spouse or significant other to make room for this squeeze. They have to suck it up. So this is very, very important business that I am talking about here this evening.

My good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN), we have been working together for some time; we had a very late night tonight, we had a hearing in the Committee on Armed Services, a markup, which is disappointing at best; but this may be a time that we can talk about that. The gentleman represents Ohio, and they have been hit hard on this middle-class squeeze. A lot of people that are around the gentleman's age range and even above have experienced economic hard times on top of not having a job, on top of not having health care, even though small businesses in the gentleman's State that are trying to provide and trying to continue to keep the workers working, they are taking a squeeze, they are taking a hit on the gas prices. So I think that not only the gentleman being a Member of the Congress and being a very insightful person, that the gentleman's purpose here is even greater to give those individuals voice, and I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and I think he is absolutely right. In places like Ohio, things are very difficult. The \$300, \$400,

\$500 increase over the course of a year in the gas effects people's lives. I know the gentleman from Florida is also concerned. But, Mr. Speaker, I have been very disappointed tonight, because several of the Special Orders tried to, I guess, address issues and make persuasive arguments I think that really do not exist, and one just wonders to oneself what the communities are like where these people are living. I know in Youngstown, Ohio, and in Niles, Ohio and in Warren, Ohio, and in Akron, Ohio, that people are feeling the squeeze; and people are losing jobs that pay \$20, \$25 an hour, health care benefits, pensions, 401(k)s, defined benefit plans, and they are losing those jobs, and the jobs that are being created are jobs that are paying \$7, \$8, \$9, \$10 an hour and no health care, in addition to the gas prices, in addition to these people trying to send their kids to school or to college. In Ohio, as I am sure it is going on around the country, that increase in tuition is 10 percent, 15 percent every single year.

So the reason we are here, the reason we want to talk about these issues is because we think something needs to be done. I do not believe that we should just sit here and criticize, although I do believe that is part of our constitutional responsibility, to make sure that we identify our platform where we want to take the country and we compare that to where the country is or where the opposite political party would like to take the country; and we try to make a comparison. I just want to share a couple of ideas that are the Democratic proposals for some of the education squeeze issues that people are feeling.

Senator KERRY, Presidential candidate Kerry, has several plans that we also agree with here in the Congress. A couple of them I would like to share with the American people here tonight. One of them is a tax credit for \$4,000 for anyone who sends their kid to school or they are paying for their own school; \$4,000 a year tax credit. Phenomenal. Not terrible; phenomenal. I think that is the kind of direction that we want to go in, when we can say to a young student, we are going to be here, the government is going to be here to support you.

Now, some people may say, what is the responsibility of the Federal Government on the issue of education, at least on the issue of college education? Well, some of it is Pell grants where we can give actual grants. When the Pell grant program was started in the middle of the 1970s, it accounted for almost 80 percent of a person's college tuition. Today, the Pell grant accounts for nearly 40 percent of a person's college tuition. So the buying power of the Pell grant program has decreased, almost cut in half. President Bush, when he campaigned in 2000, said that he was going to increase the amount invested into the Pell grant program so that young students would have the opportunity to go to college, but that just

was not the case. So one of our proposals is to also increase the amount of funding for the Pell grant program.

Another specific proposal that I think is something that we really need to look into and hopefully act on the first of next year, although many people believe that we cannot wait, is the issue of the States not having the money, the resources to invest. Many of the colleges in the States are publicly funded through the State tax coffers, so the State aid to universities in Ohio, for example, has decreased. And because the State aid has decreased, the local universities and colleges have been forced to raise tuition to compensate for the lack of State funding. One of the issues that we are proposing here is to have \$25 billion given across the country to the States with one provision: this money is to go to reduce the increases in tuition; this money is to go directly for State aid to our colleges. This will have a direct impact. It will lower the cost of tuition for many of these universities; it will allow access.

Since 2001, I believe the statistic is, and I will have to get it, but I think it was 2001, 250,000 potential students, college-eligible, qualified to attend, proper test scores, proper GPAs, would be able to access the college system. I say to the gentleman, 250,000 have not been able to go to school because they cannot afford it. In the United States of America, that is unacceptable.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, that was the U.S. Department of Education report.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Yes. This was not the Kendrick Meek Report, this was not the Tim Ryan Report, this was not the Democratic Caucus report. This was the U.S. agency's report. I just think it is important for people who are listening here tonight to say is that we can do better in the United States of America. Why would we want 250,000 people who want to go to college be somehow prohibited from going to college because of their financial situation? We know that if we invest in these people; and we did a study, I say to the gentleman, when I was in the State Senate in Ohio, the University of Akron did a study. For every dollar that the State would invest into higher education, they would get almost \$2, there were two or three studies, but they would get almost \$2 back from tax revenues.

□ 2340

Because you get someone who graduates from high school, goes out and is working somewhere for seven, eight bucks an hour and paying taxes on seven, eight bucks an hour as opposed to someone who is college educated making 40 or \$50,000 a year paying taxes on 40 or \$50,000 a year. It makes sense for us to invest. We have to get return on our investments. That is not the reason we are doing it but we know the societal benefits. Less racism, more tolerance for people from dif-

ferent cultures, different walks of life, different religions, and not to mention the added benefit to our economy, the entrepreneurship and everything else. So the point is this is an investment we should make.

The University of Akron study is applied to this particular proposal of \$25 billion. It would mean an increase in revenues to the States by \$50 billion. Each State would get \$1 billion.

Now, you go to a State like Ohio or Florida and say Governor Bush, Governor Taft, what would you do with an extra billion dollars? You would pump it right back into education. You would pump it back into health care. You would make sure your kids are healthy. You would be able to fund the No Child Left Behind that is underfunded.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Let me share with you, we received a rebate in the State of Florida of a billion dollars. And the State Governor Jeb Bush said, let us hold it off to next annual year versus trying to resolve some of the issues that are facing Floridians right now.

I am going to tell you nine times out of ten if it is the wrong governor or the wrong way of thinking of continuing to way say, well, I am here to make sure that we do the right thing with the people's money, well, let me just say this, nine times out of ten when things are held off it is in the kitty to justify another tax cut for individuals and for big corporations that are not necessarily on their knees and need it right now. They are carrying out the tax cuts because they cannot because they need to.

When the gentleman talked about that report, basically colleges and community colleges are not able to provide the courses for the individuals that would like to educate themselves. Right now, I just want to read something almost from the same report that was given to us. The fact that we talk about the 30 percent, we talk about the 250,000 college qualified students that have been shut out of last fall, 2003, in many cases because of cutbacks, because colleges will have to pull their belts tighter and cut courses. They just did not have the room to be able to adequately serve these students. Also as we start looking at the debt issue, Mr. RYAN, I mentioned earlier that many people are leaving the college experience in debt and right now.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Big time debt.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. We have individuals now that are ungraduate level and just to do a comparison between what happened in 1997 to 2000, and if you move beyond that you really start getting in trouble. But here between 1997 and 2000 the typical undergraduate debt rose 66 percent to \$18,900. And more than a quarter of today's 14 million undergraduate students will incur more than \$25,000 in debt to earn their degree.

Now, that is a good story because I know of stories that individuals leave

the higher education experience 75,000, \$100,000 in debt.

Now, you mention that yes, we are here to point those issues out but at the same time we are here to talk about solutions, and there is legislation on this side of the aisle from the Democrats with our fearless leader, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) that has served this Congress so well as the Democratic leader, and wants the opportunity to be Speaker of this House, so to summon these issues that are facing real Americans can rise to the top, need it be carrying out if the American people would have it, Senator KERRY's plan which hopefully will be President Kerry, or Members of this body that want to be see this legislation top shelf in this House. But now we have Republicans that are blocking legislation to lock low interest rates in, to allow students to be able to continue to receive low interest rates versus a variable in the long run. They will pay more if this is not taken care of.

I will tell you that if we go to a variable as some of the big banks want us to do, I will tell you right now they are not talking to me because they know they will be wasting their time because I am all about being on the side of the individual who tried to educate themselves, and unfortunately had to go beyond the call to pay for that education. It will cost those individuals \$5,500 over time. That is real money. That is while you are trying to buy a house. That is while you are trying to provide for your family.

I will tell the gentleman right now this is a real issue. We talk about the dollars and cents. This is a Democratic proposal. Lock it. Make sure the individuals have what they can be able to have, more money in their pocket versus more money out of their pocket.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. The official Democratic proposal says that the Democrats would double the maximum petroleum grant to \$11,600. Now, for many people that will cover pretty much most of your college television.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. That is correct. Right now we are experiencing the highest deficit in the history of the republic. And you would assume that if we have the highest deficit and it was Democrats that balanced the budget. I just want to remind the American people of that in this Congress, it was not the Republicans, it was not the Republican President. It was the Democrats in this House that balanced the budget. Just 3½ years ago, the discussion was on the floor on what are we going to do with the surplus. Now the discussion is, can I take my credit card out? This is a big number.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. It is a big number.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. A big number. And I will tell you right now if we had a little ticker here these zeros would be moving to a higher number as we speak. So the experience now that the American people have to witness and

this is the U.S. Treasury credit card here, and we have Republican Congress there. What we are experiencing now is that every 3 weeks we are knocking on the bank of China saying, can you loan us money to be able to pay down on the debt? So as we look at that, more money in the American people's pocket versus out of their pocket.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. We are talking Democrat and Republican. And there are several Republicans I think who have taken a very courageous stand on this particular issue. If you had an opportunity today to read the New York Times, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) I believe had a marvelous, marvelous letter to the editor, or op-ed today. It was phenomenal and I cannot say enough about it.

It basically said that the Federal Government should be directly loaning money to students. We do not need the banks involved in this. I do not think the banks are inherently bad people, but why would I give money to you for you to give it to somebody else and then you charge me more and I give you a little bit more so you can make a profit and then you give somebody else the money? We insure your loan. We guarantee you. So the Federal Government gives the money to the banks or we guarantee it to the banks so the banks takes no risk at all. Why not eliminate the banks, directly lend to the students, and give them the money and tell them to go to school and tell them that we are going to give him or her and many students like him or her around the country \$25 billion. And when it is all said and done, we are going to make \$50 billion on the deal.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Is the gentleman actually suggesting that we do something that will actually help the students? Are you suggesting that?

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I am working on it. I do not want to be so bold but we need to start peeking in that direction.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. I have a Bachelor of Science Degree, and I am not an economist, but one would argue, well, if we take the banks out of it, what kind of effect will it have on the economy? And I think very little. If any of us that have gone to banks knowing the kinds of praying at the altar, at the end of the day to be able to get money, for them to trust us enough to pay them back, it reminds me of the pharmaceutical companies in the prescription drugs.

I think the pharmaceutical companies are doing good things in America, in research, things of that nature, but when you look beyond the blankets of all of that we are paying, it is subsidized research. With the banks we are guaranteeing their loans.

□ 2350

So the real issues for that individual that is trying to educate him- or herself, this feeds also to the parents that we are talking 30-something, but individuals that are 50- or 60-something, high 40s, they are picking up the slack,

and they are paying the interest 9 times out of 10 for young people because they cannot afford it.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Because the Federal Government guarantees the loans, now the banks have no real incentive to go capture somebody who defaulted on their loan. Why would they? They are going to get reimbursed anyway from us. So, actually, the Federal Government, if we eliminated the banks or removed the banks from this process, we would lend the money directly, and there would be more incentive for us to go and capture people who defaulted on the loans that we gave them. We would want there to be incentive because we would get the money back. The banks are going to get their money one way or the other. They are either going to get it from the student or the Federal Government. So there is no real incentive.

Again, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) was phenomenal today in his op-ed, and I cannot say enough about his courage to say if you are a conservative, if you do believe in the private, free markets, this kind of government intervention with the banks and playing all these games is no way to do it. It was very articulate, and I commend him for doing that and having the courage to do that.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is all depending on the kind of leadership that we will have come November, and I, for one, believe that the gentleman from California (Ms. PELOSI), who believes in some of the things that we are talking about here tonight, making sure that children or young people receive the opportunity that they need to be able to move in the direction, that they would like to move in to make this country strong, also making a decision like you just mentioned, what will be best for the American young person or the American family.

I mentioned early in our time here tonight the crunch, the squeeze on the middle class, the gas issue, and you have the gas chart there. We talked about voter suppression, also. We did a little cutback on that, but I think it is important when we talk about the middle class squeeze that folks say, well, you know, I received a \$35 check in the mail and I am so glad or \$100 back in my middle class tax cut, but I will tell my colleague, this gas thing is very real.

This is not the Tim Ryan report or the Kendrick Meek report. We actually do a little homework before we get to the floor. We spend the week making sure we get this information so that we are factual and we are sharing it with the American people, the good, bad and ugly, but according to the Forbes Magazine, it says the gas price increase since the beginning of this year cost Americans \$35 billion. That is a big number, much more than the 15 to 20 billion middle class consumers got from the Bush tax cuts this April.

I think it is important for us to continue to bring these facts to the table

because it is money in one pocket and it is more money out of the other pocket. I will tell you right now that is playing with the economy of families and will continue to do so, and it is important that we share this information with them.

We are asking on this side of the aisle the opportunity to lead, an opportunity to cut the deficit, an opportunity to be able to make sure that young people have greater opportunities in the future to make America strong and investing in U.S. jobs here versus overseas.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield, with regards to what you were just talking about in the middle class squeeze, and I do not know if you had an opportunity to talk about this or not, but I think it is so fundamental to everything that we are talking about tonight.

CEO wages average \$8.1 million, 300 times that of the average worker in the United States of America, 300 times. Now, we are not begrudging those people. God bless them. You are in America. Make as much money as you possibly can. Unfortunately, taxes on wages earned average almost 24 percent. So if you are out working 40, 50, 60 hours a week, make a wage, 24 percent. Taxes on income from investments like stocks and bonds average less than 10 percent.

There is a shift in our tax code, our tax system, where we are moving the burden to wage earners. We are reducing the burden for those people who make money on stocks and bonds that has begun to divide the country, and there is this gap that is being created for the people who have a lot and the people who do not have too much.

I think it is dangerous, and I want to share with my colleague a conversation I was having last week with an old school Republican, moderate, conservative, fiscally balanced budgets. I will not mention his name, but he was saying how this kind of system that we are running right now, where the rich get richer and the poor get poorer and the middle class gets squeezed and tax burden goes on to those people who earn wages and the taxes are reduced for those people who make money on stocks and bonds and everything else, when we have a trading system that removes the good jobs to other places like China and India and they are not replaced by good paying jobs, where there is no health care, where people cannot find good employment, we begin to jeopardize the whole system. We begin to put the whole system at risk because we lose the stability that we need to have, and poor countries have revolutions because the poor get so poor that they just take up arms.

Now, I am not suggesting we are at that point, but we are beginning to move in a direction where the very rich donate money to this place. They get the laws they want, the free trade agreements that they want, the tax

structure that they want, the cuts in government that they want, the investments in government that they want, defense spending and something where the big companies can make a lot of money. There is no stabilizing force, and that is what the government is here for. We are here to stabilize this democracy and stabilize this country, and we have always been that country where people can look and say here is the middle class, the average people have an opportunity, average people are going to get educated, average people are going to have health care; everyone is going to have health care; everyone is going to have an education.

I think we take a step back and we look how the government and what we are talking about, the investments that we are talking about, have a stabilizing force on our society as a whole and allow us to be that kind of example that we want to be for the rest of the world.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I just want to say I do not think anyone on this floor could have shared in a way that the gentleman just summed it up and what he just shared with the American people. It is choices that one has to make.

I believe that people are going to make the right choice this upcoming election season. I have said it before. President, commander-in-chief, I do not envision him as what you might say a textbook Republican. I think he is something else. I think he is trying to take the country to another level, to where a number of Members of this House are not, and I think some of them are on the other side, and I think that they have gone to see the wizard to get courage and heart to be able to speak out against the present administration. So while we are trying to tell the rest of the world how a democracy works, it is going to be up to the American people ultimately to be able to stand in judgment of this Congress, Democrat and Republican, and also this President of making sure that we move in the next 4 years towards a safer, sounder, more job generating America, an America that is healthy, that has health care, so that we do not have literally millions of Americans experiencing emergency room health care.

With that, I would say that we should try to run to catch the back end of David Letterman's monologue tonight and come back next week with solutions to problems but also pointing out the good, bad and ugly so that we can come clean with the American people so they can be able to make a sound judgment in a letter or e-mail that they may send to their Member of Congress or the President of the United States.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. That would be great. I will be here. Would you like for me to share the Web site?

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Do that Web site real quick. Then we are going to take this back to the Speaker.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Send us an e-mail if you would like, to 30somethingdems@mail.house.gov. We would love to hear any personal stories or opinions on the topics we discussed, and I would like to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) for all his leadership.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. FROST (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal reasons.

Ms. KILPATRICK (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. LAMPSON (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal reasons.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. REYES (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal reasons.

Ms. WOOLSEY (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of illness.

Mr. MILLER of Florida (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of district responsibilities.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. OSBORNE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. WELLER, for 5 minutes, June 16.

Mr. WELDON of Florida, for 5 minutes, June 15.

Mr. MURPHY, for 5 minutes, June 16.

Mr. OSBORNE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, June 15 and 16.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, June 15, 16, 17 and 18.

Mr. HENSARLING, for 5 minutes, June 15.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's

table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 2214. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3150 Great Northern Avenue in Missoula, Montana, as the "Mike Mansfield Post Office"; to the Committee on Government Reform.

S. 2415. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4141 Postmark Drive, Anchorage, Alaska, as the "Robert J. Opinsky Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Government Reform.

S.J. Res. 38. Joint resolution providing for the appointment of Eli Broad as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution; to the Committee on House Administration.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at midnight), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, June 15, 2004, at 8:30 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

8471. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Chincoteague Channel, Chincoteague, VA [CGD05-03-168] (RIN: 1625-AA09) received May 26, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8472. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations: Cheesecake Creek, NJ. [CGD01-04-036] received May 26, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8473. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Drawbridge Operation Regulations: Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Galveston, TX [CGD08-04-021] received May 26, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8474. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Cleveland Harbor, Cleveland, Ohio [CGD09-04-009] (RIN: 2115-AA00) received May 26, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8475. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zones: Port Valdez and Valdez Narrows, Valdez, AK [COTP Prince William Sound 04-001] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 26, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8476. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zones: Fireworks displays in the Captain of the Port

Portland Zone. [CGD13-04-020] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 26, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8477. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Peril Strait, Cozian Reef, Motor Vessel LeConte, Southeast Alaska [COTP Southeast Alaska 04-001] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 26, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8478. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Duluth Harbor, Duluth, Minnesota [CGD09-04-016] (RIN: 2115-AA00) received May 26, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8479. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; St. Croix, United States Virgin Islands [COTP San Juan-04-044] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 26, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8480. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; San Francisco Bay, California [COTP San Francisco Bay 04-010] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 26, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8481. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Atlantic Ocean, Vicinity of Cape Henlopen State Park, DE [CGD05-98-043] (RIN: 1615-AA00) received May 26, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8482. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone, St. Simons Sound and the Atlantic Ocean, GA [COTP Savannah-04-041] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 26, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8483. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zones and Regulated Navigation Area; Savannah River, GA [COTP Savannah-04-040] (RIN: 1625-AA00, AA11) received May 26, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8484. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Portland Rose Festival on Willamette River [CGD13-04-022] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 26, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8485. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zone; Potomac River, Washington, D.C. and Arlington and Fairfax Counties, VA [CGD05-04-057] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received May 26, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8486. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department

of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Local Regulations for Marine Events; Nanticoke River, Sharptown, MD [CGD05-03-156] (RIN: 1625-AA08) received May 26, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8487. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulated Navigation Area; San Francisco Bay, San Pablo Bay, Carquinez Strait, Suisun Bay, Sacramento River, San Joaquin River, and connecting waters, California [CGD11 04-001] (RIN: 1625-AA11) received May 26, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8488. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A300 B4-600 and A300 C4-600 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 2003-NM-80-AD; Amendment 39-13572; AD 2004-08-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 26, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8489. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model 717-200 Airplanes [Docket No. 2002-NM-212-AD; Amendment 39-13571; AD 2004-08-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 26, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8490. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Model F.28 Mark 0070 and 0100 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 2002-NM-256-AD; Amendment 39-13570; AD 2004-08-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 26, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8491. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model MD-11 and MD-11F Airplanes [Docket No. 2002-NM-292-AD; Amendment 39-13573; AD 2004-08-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 3, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8492. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Cessna Model 500, 501, 550, and 551 Airplanes [Docket No. 2000-NM-65-AD; Amendment 39-13594; AD 2004-09-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 3, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8493. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; HPH s.r.o. Models Glasfluge 304CZ, 304CZ-17, and 304C Sailplanes [Docket No. 2003-CE-63-AD; Amendment 39-13592; AD 2004-09-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 3, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8494. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; BAE Systems (Operations) Limited Model BAe 146-100A and -200A Series Airplanes [Docket No. 2001-NM-272-AD; Amendment 39-13575; AD 2004-08-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 3, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8495. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation,

transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 767-300 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 2003-NM-125-AD; Amendment 39-13576; AD 2004-08-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 3, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8496. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A300 B2 and B4 Series Airplanes; Model A300 B4-600, B4-600R and F4-600R (Collectively Called A300-600) Series Airplanes; and Model A310 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 2001-NM-216-AD; Amendment 39-13578; AD 2004-08-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 3, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8497. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Gulfstream Model G-IV Series Airplanes [Docket No. 2000-NM-101-AD; Amendment 39-13577; AD 2004-08-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 3, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8498. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Correction to Modification of the Houston Class B Airspace Area; TX [FAA Docket No. FAA-2003-17383; Airspace Docket No. 04-AWA-01] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received June 3, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8499. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class D Airspace Greenville Donaldson Center, SC, Amendment of Class E Airspace; Greer, Greenville — Spartanburg Airport, SC, and Amendment of Class Airspace; Greenville, SC. [Docket No. FAA-2004-17341; Airspace Docket No. 02-ASO-4] received June 3, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8500. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E2 Airspace; and Modification of Class E5 Airspace; Farmington, MO. [Docket No. FAA-2004-16983; Airspace Docket No. 04-ACE-1] received June 3, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8501. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Washington, DC [Docket No. FAA-2004-17081; Airspace Docket No. 04-AEA-01] received June 3, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8502. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Saab Model SAAB SF340A and SAAB 340B Series Airplanes [Docket No. 2003-NM-130-AD; Amendment 39-13597; AD 2004-09-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 3, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8503. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 2002-NM-341-AD; Amendment 39-13599; AD 2004-09-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 3, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8504. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737-200C Series Airplanes [Docket No. 2003-NM-208-AD; Amendment 39-13598; AD 2004-09-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 3, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8505. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A300 B2 Series Airplanes; A300 B4 Series Airplanes; A300 B4-600, B4-600R, F4-600R, and C4-605R Variant F (Collectively Called A300-600) Series Airplanes; and A310 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 2001-NM-111-AD; Amendment 39-13574; AD 2004-08-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 3, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8506. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 767-200, -300, and -300F Series Airplanes [Docket No. 2002-NM-198-AD; Amendment 39-13600; AD 2004-09-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 3, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8507. A letter from the Paralegal Specialist, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A319, A320, and A321 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 2002-NM-163-AD; Amendment 39-13595; AD 2004-09-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 3, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8508. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 2003-NM-47-AD; Amendment 39-13566; AD 2004-07-22] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 26, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8509. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model DC-9-15, DC-9-31, and DC-9-32 Airplanes [Docket No. 2003-NM-60-AD; Amendment 39-13558; AD 2004-07-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 26, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8510. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Saab Model SAAB SF340A and SAAB 340B Series Airplanes [Docket No. 2003-NM-25-AD; Amendment 39-13567; AD 2004-07-23] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 26, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8511. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Model Mystere-Falcon 50, Mystere-Falcon 900, and Falcon 900 EX Series Airplanes [Docket No. 2003-NM-51-AD; Amendment 39-13568; AD 2004-07-24] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 26, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8512. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company CF6-80C2 Series Turbofan Engines [Docket No. 2003-NE-46-AD; Amendment 39-

13557; AD 2004-07-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 26, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8513. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Aircraft Engines CT7 Series Turboprop Engines [Docket No. 99-NE-48-AD; Amendment 39-13553; AD 2004-07-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 26, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8514. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747-100, -100B, -100B SUD, -200B, -200C, -200F, -300, 747SR, and 747SP Series Airplanes Equipped With Pratt & Whitney JT9D-3, -7, -7Q, and -7R4G2 Series Engines [Docket No. 2002-NM-207-AD; Amendment 39-13563; AD 2004-07-19] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 26, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8515. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model CL-600-2B19 (Regional Jet Series 100 & 440) Airplanes [Docket No. 2003-NM-157-AD; Amendment 39-13562; AD 2004-07-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received May 26, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8516. A letter from the Senior Attorney, Research and Special Programs Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Hazardous Materials: Revisions to Incident Reporting Requirements and the Hazardous Materials Incident Report Form [Docket No. RSPA-99-5013 (HM-229)] (RIN: 2137-AD 21) received May 26, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8517. A letter from the Trial Attorney, Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Brake System Safety Standards for Freight and Other Non-Passenger Trains and Equipment; End-of-Train Devices [FRA Docket No. PB-9; Notice No. 22] (RIN: 2130-AB52) received May 26, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8518. A letter from the FMCSA Regulations Officer, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Minimum Training Requirements for Longer Combination Vehicle (LCV) Operators and LCV Driver-Instructor Requirements; Correction [Docket FMCSA-97-2176] (RIN: 2126-AA08) received May 26, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8519. A letter from the FMCSA Regulations Officer, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Minimum Training Requirements for Entry-Level Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators [Docket No. FMCSA-1997-2199] (RIN: 2126-AA09) received May 26, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

8520. A letter from the Senior Attorney, Research and Special Programs Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Applicability of the Hazardous Materials Regulations to Loading, Unloading, and Storage [Docket No. RSPA-98-4952 (HM-223)] (RIN: 2137-AC68) received June 3, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. BARTON: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 3266. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to make grants to first responders, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 108-460, Pt. 2). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 671. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4503) to enhance energy conservation and research and development, to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes, and for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4517) to provide incentives to increase refinery capacity in the United States (Rept. 108-539). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. REYNOLDS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 672. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4513) to provide that in preparing an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement required under section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 with respect to any action authorizing a renewable energy project, no Federal agency is required to identify alternative project locations or actions other than the proposed action and the no action alternative, and for other purposes, and for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4529) to provide for exploration, development, and production of oil and gas resources on the Arctic Coastal Plain of Alaska, to resolve outstanding issues relating to the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, to benefit the coal miners of America, and for other purposes (Rept. 108-540). Referred to the House Calendar.

TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII, the following action was taken by the Speaker:

H.R. 3266. Referral to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Judiciary, and Energy and Commerce for a period ending not later than June 21, 2004.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, and Mr. MCCOTTER):

H.R. 4545. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to reduce the proliferation of boutique fuels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. EHLERS:

H.R. 4546. A bill to provide for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to authorize appropriations for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, and in addition to the Committee on Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 4547. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to protect vulnerable persons from drug trafficking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary,

and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOSS:

H.R. 4548. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2005 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

By Mr. POMBO:

H.R. 4549. A bill to provide for exploration, development, and production of oil and gas resources on the Arctic Coastal Plain of Alaska, to resolve outstanding issues relating to the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, to benefit the coal miners of America, to make related technical changes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TURNER of Texas (for himself, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Mr. BERMAN):

H.R. 4550. A bill to secure the visa waiver program under section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TURNER of Texas:

H.R. 4551. A bill to establish 4 memorials to the Space Shuttle Columbia in the State of Texas; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. BURNS:

H.R. 4552. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on L-Aspartic acid; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CUNNINGHAM (for himself and Mr. CANTOR):

H.R. 4553. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives to encourage manufacturers of computer and television equipment to operate an environmentally sound recycling program for use by consumers who want to discard the equipment; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. DeLAURO:

H.R. 4554. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 40 Putnam Avenue in Hamden, Connecticut, as the "Linda White-Epps Post Office"; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. DINGELL:

H.R. 4555. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend provisions relating to mammography quality standards; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ETHERIDGE (for himself, Mr. BURR, Mr. COBLE, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. HAYES, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. BALLENGER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. WATT):

H.R. 4556. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1115 South Clinton Avenue in Dunn, North Carolina, as the "General William Carey Lee Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. GORDON:

H.R. 4557. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to support the planning, implementation, and evaluation of organized activities involving statewide youth suicide early intervention and prevention strategies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HYDE:

H.R. 4558. A bill to authorize the Comptroller General to conduct audits, evalua-

tions, and investigations of the Millennium Challenge Corporation, to establish the Millennium Challenge Advisory Council, to transfer the Millennium Challenge program to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, and for other purposes; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. HYDE:

H.R. 4559. A bill to extend certain trade benefits to countries emerging from political instability, civil strife, or armed conflict; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. HYDE:

H.R. 4560. A bill to provide multilateral and bilateral debt relief for developing countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on International Relations, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. LOFGREN (for herself, Mr. CAMP, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. NADLER, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas):

H.R. 4561. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to modify the treatment of adopted children; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. MUSGRAVE:

H.R. 4562. A bill to further the purposes of the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site Establishment Act of 2000; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. ROHRBACHER (for himself, Mr. HEFLEY, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. PENCE, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. WALSH, and Mr. SOUDER):

H.R. 4563. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to redesign the face of \$20 Federal reserve notes so as to include a likeness of President Ronald Wilson Reagan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. WOLF (for himself and Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia):

H.R. 4564. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for reform relating to employment at the Federal Bureau of Investigation; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

H. Res. 670. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Washington:

H. Res. 671. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4503) to enhance energy conservation and research and development, to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes, and for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4517) to provide incentives to increase refinery capacity in the United States.

By Mr. REYNOLDS:

H. Res. 672. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4513) to provide that in preparing an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement required under section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 with respect to any action authorizing a renewable energy project, no Federal agency is required to identify alternative project locations or actions other than the proposed action and the no action alternative, and for other purposes, and for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4529) to provide for exploration, development, and production of oil and gas resources on the Arctic Coastal Plain of Alaska, to resolve outstanding issues relating to the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977, to benefit the coal miners of America, and for other purposes.

By Mr. SLAUGHTER (for herself, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. HOUGHTON, Mr. QUINN, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Mr. McNULTY):

H. Res. 673. A resolution honoring the life of George Eastman and recognizing his contributions on the anniversary of his birth; to the Committee on Government Reform.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, private bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. MARKEY:

H.R. 4565. A bill for the relief of Obain Attouman; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RAMSTAD:

H.R. 4566. A bill for the relief of Konstantinos Ritos; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 99: Mr. PLATTS.
H.R. 117: Mrs. KELLY.
H.R. 218: Mr. DEUTSCH.
H.R. 677: Mr. HOYER and Ms. SOLIS.
H.R. 717: Mr. WAXMAN.
H.R. 834: Mr. CHANDLER.
H.R. 920: Mr. ISRAEL.
H.R. 1004: Mrs. MUSGRAVE.
H.R. 1098: Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. CHOCOLA, Mr. HERGER, and Mr. COLE.
H.R. 1117: Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
H.R. 1160: Mr. WEINER.
H.R. 1225: Mr. DOOLEY of California.
H.R. 1567: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.
H.R. 1716: Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. STRICKLAND, and Mr. GUTIERREZ.
H.R. 1873: Mr. LAMPSON.
H.R. 1940: Mr. HINOJOSA.
H.R. 2023: Mr. UPTON, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. ROTHMAN, and Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.
H.R. 2038: Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ, Mr. EVANS, and Ms. KILPATRICK.
H.R. 2287: Mr. SHUSTER and Mr. STUPAK.
H.R. 2413: Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland.
H.R. 2426: Mr. RANGEL.
H.R. 2541: Mr. PAYNE and Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 2672: Mr. HERGER.
H.R. 2797: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York and Mr. DUNCAN.
H.R. 2885: Mr. BERRY.
H.R. 2932: Mr. WEINER.
H.R. 2959: Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. ROSS, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. STARK.
H.R. 3184: Mr. DAVIS of Florida.
H.R. 3193: Mr. McKEON, Mr. NETHERCUTT, Mr. SHERWOOD, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. McHUGH, and Mr. MORAN of Kansas.
H.R. 3242: Mrs. EMERSON.
H.R. 3266: Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 3339: Mr. DOOLITTLE.
H.R. 3474: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.
H.R. 3545: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 3572: Mr. RUSH.
H.R. 3634: Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 3736: Mr. HALL.

H.R. 3802: Mr. CHANDLER and Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.
 H.R. 3831: Mr. DOOLEY of California.
 H.R. 3834: Ms. HARRIS.
 H.R. 3847: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.
 H.R. 3858: Mr. HULSHOF, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. CARSON of Oklahoma, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. BURGESS, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. WYNN, and Mr. DOOLEY of California.
 H.R. 3871: Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. ROTHMAN.
 H.R. 3919: Mr. ANDREWS and Ms. MCCOLLUM.
 H.R. 3953: Mr. MCCOTTER.
 H.R. 3972: Mr. PAYNE.
 H.R. 4016: Mr. BONNER, Mrs. MALONEY, and Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 4026: Mr. CARTER.
 H.R. 4039: Mr. GUTIERREZ and Mr. CUMMINGS.
 H.R. 4052: Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida and Mr. MICHAUD.
 H.R. 4094: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
 H.R. 4101: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.
 H.R. 4107: Mr. CHABOT.
 H.R. 4156: Mr. NUNES and Mr. BEREUTER.
 H.R. 4214: Mr. SHAYS, Mr. BEAUPREZ, and Mr. SESSIONS.
 H.R. 4217: Mr. CARDIN.
 H.R. 4290: Mr. RANGEL.
 H.R. 4323: Mr. SAXTON and Mr. MEEHAN.
 H.R. 4335: Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. OWENS.
 H.R. 4341: Mr. BAIRD, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mrs. CAPITO.
 H.R. 4343: Mr. HERGER, Mr. PICKERING, and Mr. MCINNIS.
 H.R. 4361: Mr. FROST, Mr. HOFFEL, Mr. OLVER, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. OWENS, and Ms. CARSON of Indiana.
 H.R. 4370: Mr. LIPINSKI, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, and Mr. UPTON.
 H.R. 4376: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire, and Mr. BONNER.
 H.R. 4380: Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. SHAW, and Mr. FEENEY.
 H.R. 4383: Mr. CARSON of Oklahoma.
 H.R. 4394: Ms. LEE, Mr. DOGGETT, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. OWENS, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
 H.R. 4417: Mr. FOLEY, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. CANNON, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. FEENEY, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 4420: Mr. PLATTS, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi.
 H.R. 4435: Mr. OWENS.
 H.R. 4440: Mr. JONES of North Carolina and Mr. FLAKE.
 H.R. 4445: Ms. MCCOLLUM and Mr. JEFFERSON.
 H.R. 4449: Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
 H.R. 4450: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida and Mr. LANGEVIN.
 H.R. 4472: Mrs. KELLY.
 H.R. 4492: Mr. LEACH.
 H.R. 4520: Mr. CANTOR, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. JENKINS, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. WAMP, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
 H.J. Res. 46: Mr. COLLINS.
 H.J. Res. 97: Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. STARK, and Mr. FALOMAVAEGA.
 H. Con. Res. 213: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
 H. Con. Res. 247: Mr. OBERSTAR.
 H. Con. Res. 260: Mr. MCCOTTER.
 H. Con. Res. 314: Mr. RUPERSBERGER.
 H. Con. Res. 377: Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
 H. Con. Res. 391: Mr. BISHOP of New York.
 H. Con. Res. 425: Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. WOLF, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. BEAUPREZ, Mrs. MALONEY, and Mr. SESSIONS.
 H. Con. Res. 430: Mr. PLATTS, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ENGEL, and Mr. OWENS.
 H. Con. Res. 448: Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. BURNS, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. CHOCOLA, Mr. WELLER, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. SIMPSON, and Mr. SWEENEY.
 H. Res. 466: Mr. HOLT.
 H. Res. 570: Ms. BERKLEY and Mr. JEFFERSON.
 H. Res. 596: Mr. HOUGHTON and Mr. DOOLITTLE.
 H. Res. 626: Mr. SNYDER.
 H. Res. 653: Mr. MCCOTTER.
 H. Res. 662: Mr. PETRI and Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin.
 H. Res. 666: Mr. BEREUTER.
 H. Res. 667: Ms. PELOSI.
 H. Res. 688: Ms. HARRIS, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. BOYD, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. KELLER, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. DEUTSCH, Mr. GOSS, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. STEARNS, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. FEENEY, and Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida.

H. Res. 669: Mr. DREIER, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. COOPER, Mr. PORTER, Mrs. BONO, Mr. BASS, Mr. KINGSTON, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. BURNS, Mr. FORD, and Mr. MCCOTTER.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS 2005

OFFERED BY: Mr. TANCREDO

AMENDMENT No. 1. At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to provide assistance to any State or local government entity or official that prohibits or restricts any government entity or official from sending to, or receiving from, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement information regarding the citizenship or immigration status of an individual, as prohibited under section 642(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1373(a)).

HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS 2005

OFFERED BY: Mr. TANCREDO

AMENDMENT No. 2. At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SECTION _____. None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to provide assistance to any State that has enacted a law authorizing aliens who are not lawfully present in the United States to obtain a driver's license, or other comparable identification document, issued by the State.

INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS BILL 2005

OFFERED BY: Mr. TANCREDO

AMENDMENT No. 1. In title II, in the item relating to "WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT", insert after the first dollar amount the following "(increased by \$60,000,000)".

In title II, in the item relating to "NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS—GRANTS AND ADMINISTRATION", insert after the first dollar amount the following: "(reduced by \$60,000,000)".